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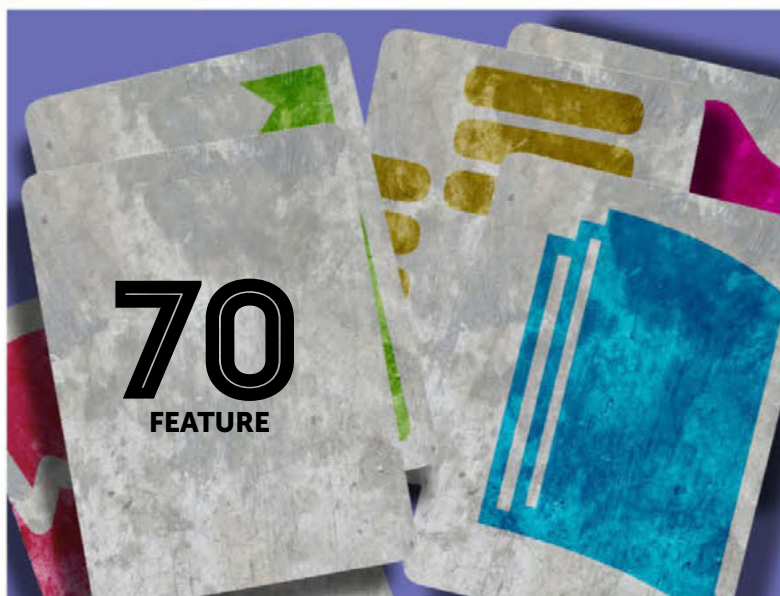
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ASUS Taichi 21 (11-inch) -...

The ASUS Taichi 21 converts from tablet to notebook simply by opening the lid. It's the first time we've seen this form factor...

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A tablet, a convertible notebook, an Ultrabook - there's a lot of new members in the ThinkPad X1 family. LET'S TAKE A LOOK! »

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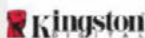
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REVIEWS & ARTICLES

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## Kingston ships encrypted USB with keypad access

NEWS / 11 Jan 2016 / 26 min ago

Kingston announced the release of DataTraveler® 2000 encrypted USB Flash drive. DataTraveler 2000 offers hardware encryption and PIN protection with access through an onboard alphanumeric keypad. It will ship later in Q1.



## Lenovo to make the first phone to sport Google's Project Tango

NEWS / 11 Jan 2016 / 47 min ago

Lenovo and Google has just announced that the first consumer device to feature Project Tango technology will be a phone and it will be available later this summer.



## Synology is back with the DiskStation DS416k 4-bay NAS

NEWS / 11 Jan 2016 / 52 min ago

Synology's latest DiskStation DS416j is a NAS aimed at home users who want a massive amount of storage without paying through the nose for a decent NAS.



## MSI's Vortex gaming PC fits dual NVIDIA GeForce GTX 980s in a trashcan form factor

NEWS / 11 Jan 2016 / 1 hour 4 min ago

High-end desktops don't have to take up a lot of space anymore (at least this one doesn't). The MSI Vortex is a no-compromises take on what a compact, high-performance gaming PC should look like.



## AMD to replace their stock coolers with the new ultra-quiet Wraith CPU coolers

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## Demo: Xiaomi MIUI V5's Unique Features

The latest release of Xiaomi's MIUI, now V5, is laden with various features. In this video, we demonstrate these features by using the affordable yet powerful Xiaomi Redmi.



## LG Launches OLED TVs That Double as Wall Paintings

04 Feb 2014 / By Kevin Bruce Francisco



## Toshiba Brings in new L Series Pro Theatre and P Series TVs to the Philippines

10 Dec 2013 / By Martin James David



## Bose VideoWave Entertainment System Hits PH Market, Sells for PHP 350,000

13 Dec 2011 / By Lionell Go Macahilig



## MyPhone Rio 5-inch Quad-core Dual-SIM Android Jelly Bean Smartphone Sells Below 5K (Updated)

27 Apr 2014 / By Lionell Go





# ED'S NOTE

F E B R U A R Y  
2 0 1 6





## TECHIE PLATEAU

Are we reaching a plateau in consumer technology? After witnessing all the major launches of 2015 and what's to come during CES last month, it really makes you wonder what it's going to take in order to spark newfound interest in our everyday gadgets.

Sure, we're witnessing VR finally turning into usable, buyable gear, wearables becoming more than just smartphone extensions, and cars running on their own, but these are things we've been expecting for the longest time after seeing them on TV for the past few decades. Looking at the latest rumors for upcoming smart devices, digital cameras, and big-screen televisions, we can say that the advances will, once again, be minor like the past year.

The good news is that people are way more creative than machines will ever hope to become. This allows us to make the most out of what we have and enjoy our gadgets till they run out of power for good. You'll notice this theme in several of the features we have in store for you this month.

After appreciating the latest product previews on the early pages of this issue, you'll get a dose of the best flagship smartphones of yesteryear on page 44, a shootout of the relentless compact cameras that still have a place in this smartphone-filled world on page 54, and guides on how to maximize Tinder on Valentine's Day, Android's feature-rich Marshmallow OS, and Canon's highly intelligent EOS M10 – just to name a few, of course.



## The HWM Team

Comments about this issue? Suggestions? The HWM Team would love to hear from you! Send us your thoughts at [editor.ph@hwzcorp.com](mailto:editor.ph@hwzcorp.com).





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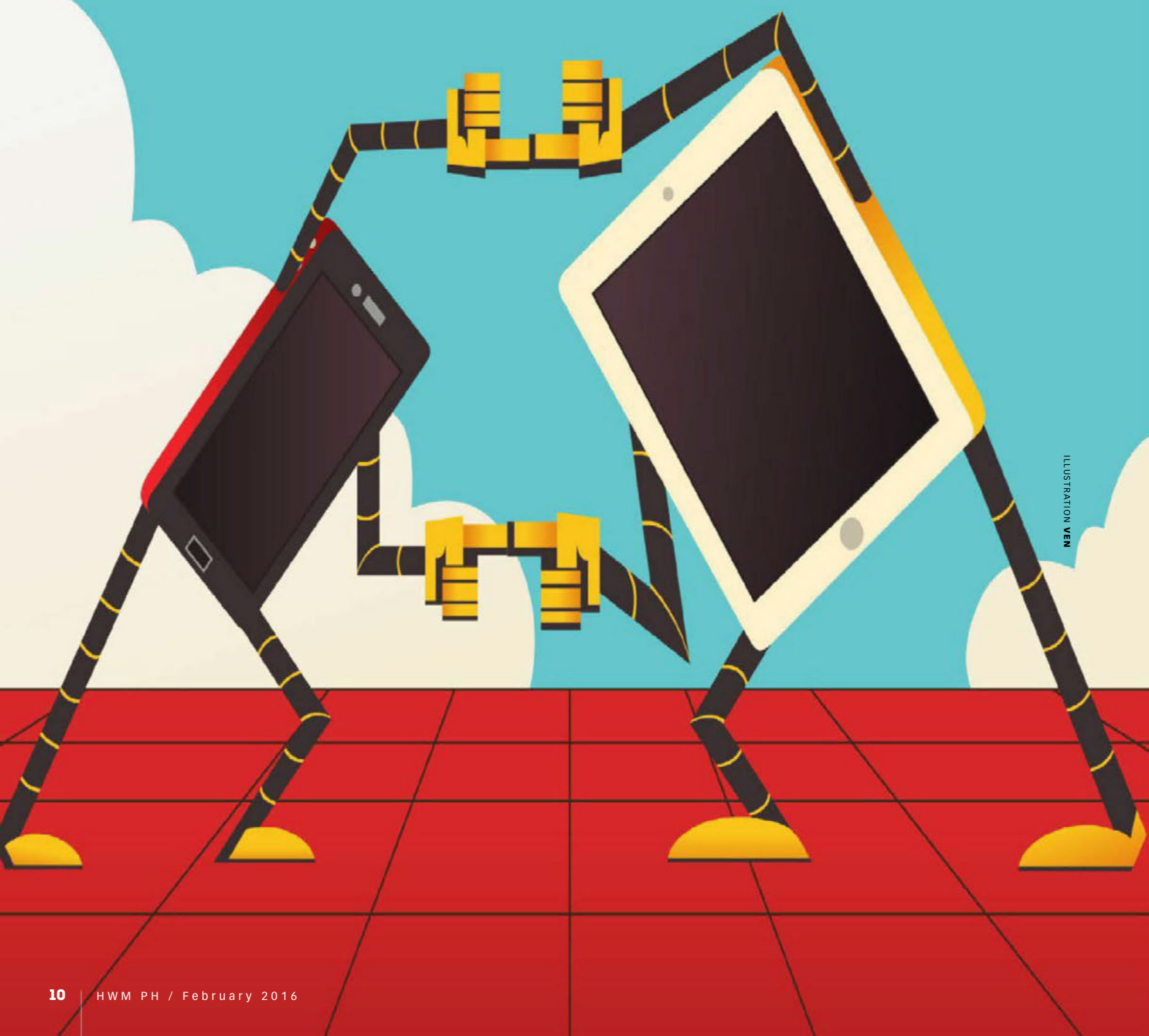


THINK

# CONVERGENCE OF MOBILE COMPUTING

Smartphones, phablets, tablets, hybrids, and ultra-slim notebooks are all blurring the lines between traditional mobile computing form factors. Do we really need this many devices? Will we finally settle on one ideal design? What will the future of mobile computing look like?

Text by *Kenny Yeo*







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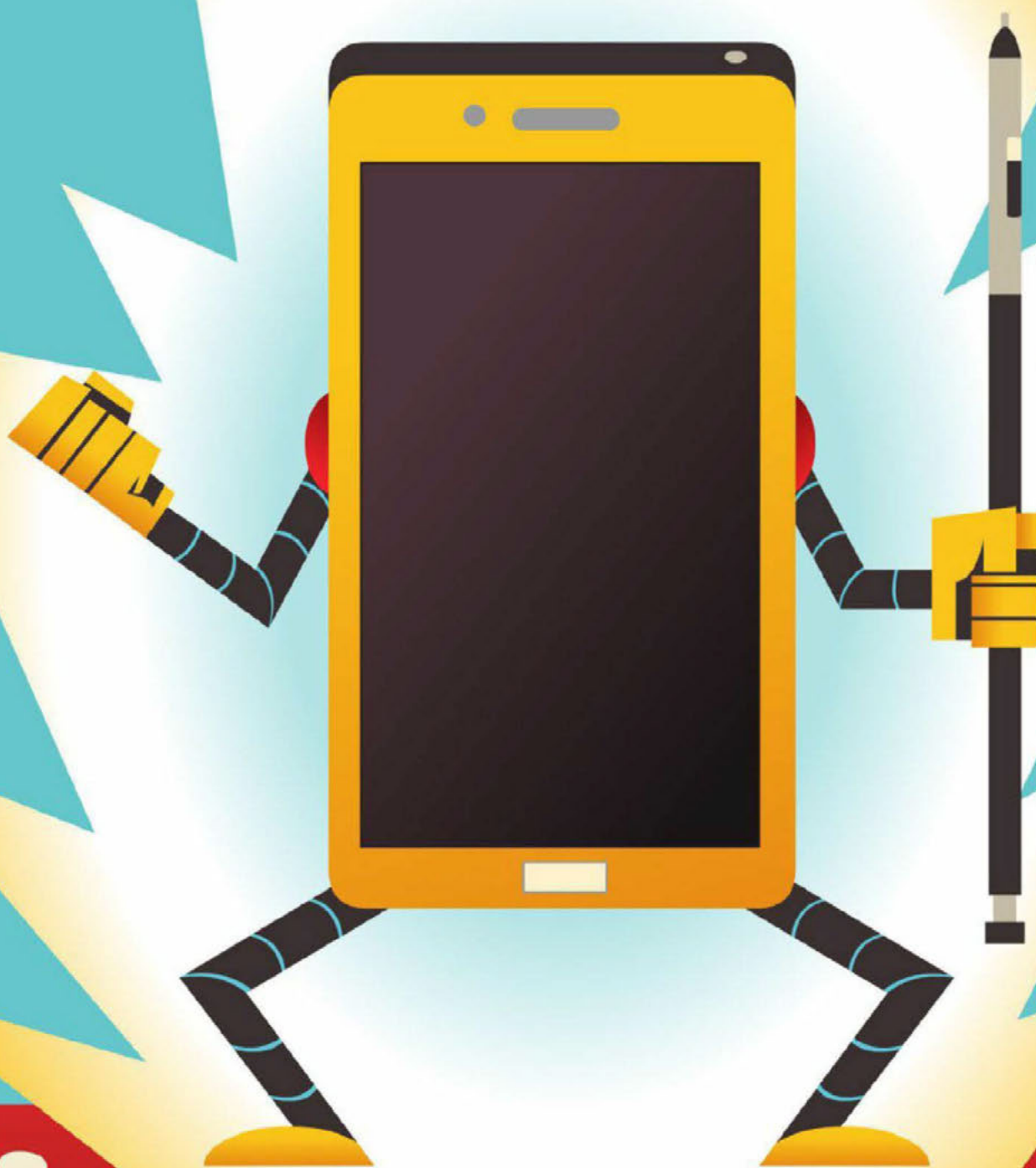


ILLUSTRATION VEN



These are exciting times for mobile computing. In the past, it used to be just notebooks, but now, smartphones and tablets are proving themselves to be excellent productivity tools, as well. Surely, there were smartphones before the iPhone, but it was the iPhone that introduced the concept of smartphones – phones that could do more than merely answer calls and text – to a wider audience in 2007. The iPhone, along with the success of the App Store, ensured that its various abilities and capabilities were unmatched by any other phone before it. It even coined the phrase, “There’s an app for that,” that help perpetuated the thought that there was little that a smartphone couldn’t do.

And today, that very phrase has never been truer. Modern high-end smartphones can surf the web with ease, reply and compose emails, crop and edit photos, and even be used to create videos.

It’s truly remarkable when you consider that just years ago, you’d need a proper notebook or desktop machine for doing these things.

The next logical step in this evolution would be to increase the screen size, and this was what happened in 2010 when Apple released the iPad. It ran the same iOS operating system as Apple’s smartphones and was, in essence, a larger iPhone. However, all that extra display real estate made a big difference. Text was easier to read, videos were more enjoyable, and the on-screen keyboard was also larger and easier to type on. The tablet was dubbed as the ultimate media consumption device.

Seeing the success of tablets, Samsung decided to merge the two form factors to give us the 5.3-inch Galaxy Note, arguably the first device that sparked the current phablet phenomenon. In hindsight, the phablet made perfect sense, as it combined everything users liked about smartphones with the larger display of tablets. Even Apple, who had initially maintained a position that it would not make larger smartphones, eventually conceded and made its first phablet, the 5.5-inch iPhone 6 Plus, in 2014.

Fast forward to 2015, and we are beginning to see the next step in the evolution of mobile computing. Thanks to incredible advances in microprocessor technology, we now have smartphones that will fit into the palm of our hands, and yet, have the same amount of processing power as a desktop from years ago. A great example of this is Microsoft’s new flagship Lumia phones, the Lumia 950 and 950XL, which boast of a new feature called Continuum that turns them into almost full-fledged PCs. This is a testament of the remarkable processing capabilities of today’s phones.

As phones become larger and more powerful, tablets are beginning to make less sense for consumers. While Apple is still the runaway leader in the tablet business, sales have been dwindling for the past couple of quarters.

**"These developments are clear signs that form factors for mobile computing are converging. Phones are now almost as large as tablets, while tablets, on the other hand, are growing larger and are rivaling traditional notebooks in both display size and functionality."**

Recent studies also show that the most popular iPad today is the iPad 2 from nearly five years ago, accounting for over a fifth of all iPads sold. The next most popular Apple tablet on the list is the four-year-old iPad mini.

In order to reinvigorate sales and renew interest in tablets, Apple released the iPad Pro just a few months ago, calling it the tablet that can replace your notebook or computer. With a 12.9-inch display that rivals most Ultrabooks and its A9X processor, which is said to be more powerful than 80% of all portable PCs shipped in the past year, the giant tablet is arguably more adept than most traditional notebooks at graphics-intensive tasks, such as video editing and computer-aided design.

On the other hand, Microsoft’s Surface tablets have been very successful in their own attempts to blur the lines between tablets and notebooks.

Thanks to the touch input-friendly design of Windows 10, the Surface Pro 4 works fine as a regular tablet; but attach the Type Cover keyboard, and it turns into a very usable notebook. It even runs full-fledged Windows 10 like a proper notebook.

But wait, notebooks are not going out without a fight, since today’s notebooks have never been slimmer and lighter. Case in point is Apple’s new 12-inch MacBook which weighs just 920g and is just over 13mm thick at its fattest point. These notebooks are giving tablets and detachable/convertible notebooks a run for their money, because they are super portable and arguably more practical and functional. But perhaps the best example of a notebook that wants to make tablets redundant is the Microsoft Surface Book. It is, for all intents and purposes, a notebook, one that even has discrete graphics; however, its display detaches and turns into a Windows tablet. It truly seeks to offer the best of both worlds.

The fact of all these developments is a clear sign that form factors for mobile computing are converging. Phones are now almost as large as

tablets, while tablets, on the other hand, are growing larger and are rivaling traditional notebooks in both display size and functionality. Meanwhile, notebooks are also becoming incredibly portable, while retaining much of their original functionality.

At this point, it doesn’t seem like a single form factor will emerge victorious. Die-hard notebook users are reluctant to give up their keyboards for the flimsy ones of detachable notebooks, while tablets power users cannot bear the thought of carrying something as bulky as a notebook. And then there are those who cannot stomach the thought of carrying a phone that won’t fit neatly into their pockets. However, with proponents of all form factors constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible, who knows what the future might hold?



# WHY STREAMING SERVICES SHOULD GET RID OF FREE MUSIC

by Koh Wanzi

FREE?



ILLUSTRATION DON LOW



Think of the last time you went to a brick-and-mortar store to buy a music CD. If you can't remember when that was, you're most definitely not alone. Two of the most prominent music streaming services – Apple Music and Spotify – both have a combined total of over 90 million users, and we bet that you're one of them.

With over 75 million users alone, Spotify is one of the most popular services around. As Jim Griffin, a digital media entrepreneur and former record executive put it, "Spotify and others like it have become the new radio play. In a very real way, not being on Spotify is like not being on radio ten years ago, and that's a problem." Yes, a problem – for artists, and in a more convoluted way, for Spotify and its rivals, as well.

The rise of streaming services has, in fact, brought about a seismic shift in the music industry. CD sales have fallen by 80% over the last decade alone, and this in an industry where physical album sales make up the bulk of income for record labels and artists. In the same vein, streaming – which previously comprised a negligible portion – now makes up 32% of the annual revenue of labels, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

It's no secret that artists think that streaming services aren't paying them enough. Taylor Swift, apparently the world's richest advocate for starving musicians, pulled all her music off Spotify in 2014, because she thought it wasn't paying musicians and producers enough. As part of the whole debacle, Spotify missed out on *1989*, which eventually went on to sell 1.29 million copies in its first week and become 2014's biggest album. Swift's music is now available on Apple Music, but not before she managed to compel Apple to pay artists even during the service's three-month free trial period.

Enter 2015, and yet another wildly popular artist is keeping her album off the online airwaves. In the hours leading up to the release of *25*, Adele's first album since 2011, reports emerged that *25* would not be available for streaming on any service at all (not even Apple Music, which has *1989*). And this was after the success of "Hello," the album's lead single that became the first to sell over a million downloads in the US. One can only imagine the frustration of the streaming services upon learning that they were missing out on the initial release of what was tipped to be one of the best-selling albums in a long while. Billboard even said that *25* could have the highest-selling debut week since Nielsen SoundScan started tracking album sales in 1991.

But Swift and Adele aren't the only ones who haven't fully embraced streaming. Back in 2013, Beyoncé delayed the release of her eponymous album on Spotify for months, opting instead for an exclusive iTunes release. Outfits like Coldplay have also engaged in something known in industry parlance as "windowing," where an album's release on streaming services is delayed in order to avoid denting album sales. Adele's decision is significant because of her massive clout and following. As one of the most successful artists of her time, her move could potentially set a precedent for other artists to do the same.

The thing with names like Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, and Adele is that they have the financial resources and audience to afford to keep their music off Spotify and other services, a luxury that not all artists enjoy. The growing number of users who stream also means that so-called unfair payments aside, many less popular artists simply need the added exposure. Streaming

and other subscriptions-related revenue is projected to increase to US\$ 8 billion in 2019, while download and CD sales revenue is expected to fall by 39% and 44%, respectively. This means that streaming and subscriptions could eventually comprise 70% of all digital revenue – definitely not a figure to be ignored.

The shift towards streaming has, in fact, been associated with a fall in revenue, which is a big part of the problem for producers and musicians. A 2014 report by MIDiA Research on how streaming was changing the music industry found that streaming consumers are actually buying fewer albums. 23% of music streamers used to buy more than one album a month, but no longer do so now. Furthermore, early adopters of streaming services came largely from the same group of people who used to pay to download music, hurting download sales as a result. The problem is also not quite solved by paying subscribers. Most services cost around US\$ 9.99 per month, a fairly steep drop from the US\$ 20 to US\$ 30 spent monthly on album purchases.

However, with regard to *25*'s shunning of streaming services, Mark Mulligan, a digital media analyst with MIDiA Research, is spot on when he says that, "This is a minor issue for Adele, but a major issue for the streaming services." Indeed, when you miss out on both *1989* and *25*, two of the biggest albums in recent memory (in addition to delayed releases of a myriad of other albums), how far can you argue that you deserve to be the music library of choice?

When it comes to artists like Taylor Swift, they may not need the streaming services, but the services most definitely need them. Jonathan Dickins, Adele's manager, has said that their biggest objection to streaming is the wide availability of ad-supported music for free, a sentiment shared by many who make music for a living.

We said earlier that Spotify's success was a problem for it, as well, and that's because it had to juggle the pressure from artists to cut off free access to their music and the need to avoid alienating its current users. Only 20 million of Spotify's 75 million users are paying subscribers, and the figure is 6.5 million out of 15 million for Apple Music. Streaming

services need artists, but giving in to artists' demands to make content exclusive to subscribers could end up alienating the majority of their users.

The problem may be that many users view streaming as a 21st-century version of radio, an impression that isn't helped by radio-like services, such as Pandora and Rhapsody. Radio is free, so they don't see why they should have to pay for streaming when there are free versions available that work well enough. Unfortunately, that is a misguided perception, as streaming represents a massive disruption in the music industry and is far more than just an alternative way to consume music.

Instead of owning copies of albums and songs, consumers are now simply able to access these same tracks online from a common source. CDs seem painfully archaic in comparison, but if streaming services are going to replace them as a viable revenue source, they're going to have to start charging more, and yes, revoke free access to music. Adele and Taylor Swift are leveraging their popularity to shape ongoing conversations and developments, and the message is clear: Streaming is great, but a free tier should not exist. If you pay to watch content on Netflix, why shouldn't you have to pay to listen to music? Streaming services will have to reevaluate their business strategies, but perhaps the biggest change must come from consumers, who have to accept that paid streaming services might just become the new norm.

**"Adele and Taylor Swift are leveraging their popularity to shape ongoing conversations and developments, and the message is clear: Streaming is great, but a free tier should not exist."**

# COMPUTING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT

by Koh Wanzi

Think the latest flash drives are fast? Think again. Researchers have created the first optical-only chip that can permanently store data, a development that could, in time, enable the production of storage devices that would make SSDs look like they were from the Stone Age.

The research team solved the problem of permanent storage using familiar – albeit even old-fashioned light-based medium – DVDs. Rewritable DVDs and CDs save data using GST, an alloy made from germanium, tellurium, and antimony. GST changes structure when hit by a laser, and the researchers built a chip using waveguide technology that directs light through channels etched into a silicon-nitride material.

The chip itself was coated with nanoscale GST, then blasted by a high-intensity laser through the waveguide channels. This altered the GST's consistent crystalline structure and made it more akin to an amorphous blob, a change which was then detected by another low-intensity laser and interpreted as readable data.

The process is cyclical, and when hit by another high-intensity laser, the GST reverts to its crystalline state. By varying the intensity and wavelength of the lasers, the team was able to control the extent of each GST patch that was either crystalline or amorphous. This enabled them to store data in up to eight different combinations, a huge boost in the amount of data that each spot can store.

While you shouldn't expect light-based drives any time soon, the team says that the technology already exists to make these optical chips commercially feasible. They even have applications beyond storage; if paired with photonic logic chips, we could one day see computers up to one hundred times faster than modern machines.





# We Do **Events!**

**\*** Driven by a team of passionate technology professionals, Hardware Zone Events Services offers comprehensive event management solutions which leave lasting impressions. We have the expertise, talent, and experience to conceptualize and execute any customized on-ground activation project to meet your business objectives.

---

## **Our Proposition**

- Total service orientation
- Sound strategies that stem from strong consumer insight
- Creative and out-of-the box executions
- Cost efficient programs
- Clear measures of project effectivity

## **Our Service Menu**

### **Events Marketing**

- Product Launches
- Road Shows
- Business Conferences/Seminars
- Corporate Events
- Trade Activations

### **Promotions**

- Consumer, Trade, And Internal Promotions
- Sales Promos
- Sponsorship Tie-ins
- Manpower Management

### **Relationship Marketing**

- Direct Mail
- Efforts
- Loyalty Programs
- Team-Building Activities
- Customer Relation Mgt.





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ASUS

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10:00 AM, Sunny

ASUS

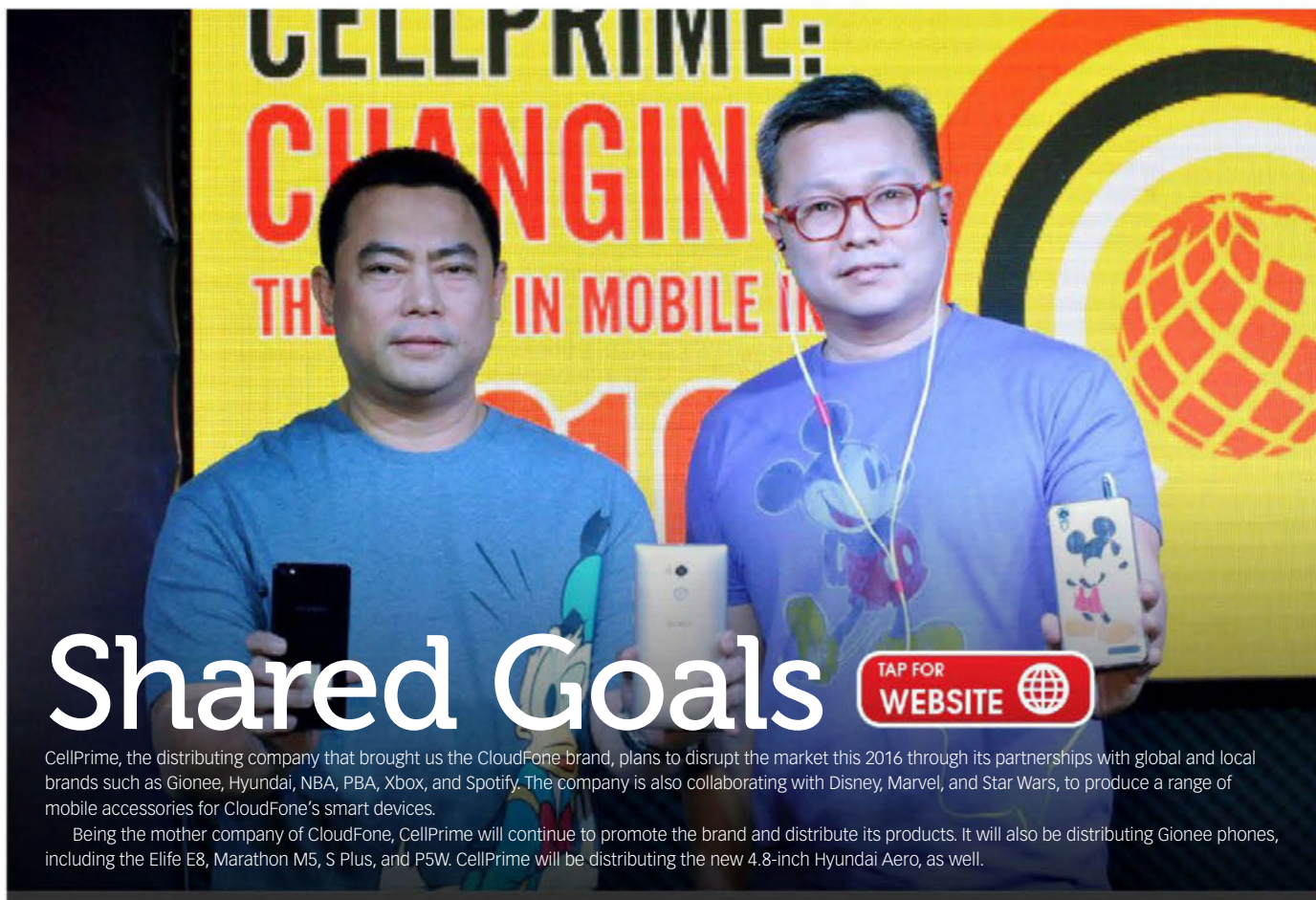
Take photos of the vibrant street scene in Cebu, featuring a woman in a traditional costume and a large, colorful dragon float.

TAP FOR WEBSITE

# Taking More Detailed Memories

Among the picturesque vistas and colorful streets of Cebu, ASUS unveiled the ZenFone Zoom and ZenFone Max. Priced at Php 26,995, the ZenFone Zoom packs an Intel Atom Z3590 quad-core processor, complemented with 4GB of RAM. It is also equipped with a 13MP PixelMaster camera with a 3x zoom lens, which has been created by HOYA in order for the Zoom to take incredibly detailed photos. Meanwhile, the ZenFone Max, which is priced at Php 8,495, comes with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 processor, backed by 2GB of RAM. It has a 13MP rear camera with a SP Larga lens and 5000mAh lithium polymer battery that ensures over 38 days of standby time, and can act as a power bank. Both phones run on Android 5.0 Lollipop with ASUS ZenUI on top.





**CELLPRIME:  
CHANGING  
THE GAME IN MOBILE**

# Shared Goals

[TAP FOR WEBSITE](#)

CellPrime, the distributing company that brought us the CloudFone brand, plans to disrupt the market this 2016 through its partnerships with global and local brands such as Gionee, Hyundai, NBA, PBA, Xbox, and Spotify. The company is also collaborating with Disney, Marvel, and Star Wars, to produce a range of mobile accessories for CloudFone's smart devices.

Being the mother company of CloudFone, CellPrime will continue to promote the brand and distribute its products. It will also be distributing Gionee phones, including the Elife E8, Marathon M5, S Plus, and P5W. CellPrime will be distributing the new 4.8-inch Hyundai Aero, as well.



[TAP FOR WEBSITE](#)

# At Long Last

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of its X-series cameras, Fujifilm released the long-awaited X-Pro2 in the Philippines. As the successor to the original X-Pro1, the new model brings a whole new set of features to the table, such as an all-new 24.3MP X-Trans CMOS III sensor, updated Hybrid AF system with 273 focus points, and an advanced Hybrid Viewfinder. Other highlights of the launch include the Fujifilm X70 and X-E2S mirrorless cameras, plus the Fujinon XF 100-400mm F4.5-5.6 OIS WR



# Choosing Right

## How Storage Designed for Surveillance Improves the Entire System



When the first event music, "Video Killed the Radio Star," premiered on MTV in 1981, it started a video revolution.

A lot has changed since then, but the video's relevance in our culture has increased, and our lives and security have come to depend on it.

Market research firm IHS estimated that one surveillance camera was installed for every eight people (about 40 million) in the United States alone. Statistics from 2014 certainly back that up. According to the IHS Video Surveillance Intelligence Service Market Insight report from August 2015, the US was ranked as the second-largest market for video surveillance equipment, worth US\$ 2.8 billion.

With our obsession over video and corresponding camera capabilities such as HD and 4K, it's easy to miss an equally crucial component that can make or break the effectiveness of an entire surveillance system, which is the storage. Unfortunately, many surveillance professionals are using the wrong drive. Rather than being designed for continuous capture of HD or FHD video from multiple cameras, a drive that is not optimized for surveillance systems can drop frames or even consume more power, generating more heat to create a major reliability issue. This could drastically reduce the life of a drive, adversely affecting the read and write operations in a surveillance system. These solutions may cost the customer less upfront, but eventually, could affect business in terms of performance, reliability, and even reputation.

The right surveillance storage solution offers high performance, efficiency, and capacity, which has been tested in harsh surveillance environments. But how do you tell the difference?

There are several specific things to look for when evaluating whether a drive has been designed with surveillance in mind:

- **Always on:** A surveillance system works 24/7. If the storage drive hasn't been designed for constant, never-ending read and write operations, it won't be able to keep up.
- **Performance reliability:** Some drives, like WD's Purple surveillance-class hard drive family, include special technology (called AllFrame, in this case) that improves playback performance and works with ATA streaming to reduce errors and frame loss.

- **RAID-enabled:** To increase peace-of-mind for your customer, you may also want to look for a drive with Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disk (RAID) capabilities. A drive with this capability can use two or more hard disks to create a safety net for failed hardware by ensuring that the image is still being captured even if one drive isn't working. This lessens interruptions in productivity and decreases the chance of data loss.

- **Low power consumption:** While low power consumption may not be first on your list of things to look for in a hard drive, the need for always-on capabilities makes this crucial. Having a drive that calculates the optimum seek speeds won't generate as much heat, even in passively cooled storage enclosures, making it more reliable and friendlier to your customer's wallet.

- **High camera count support:** A high number of cameras, an NVR system, or a longer retention period will require higher storage use, and an even greater need to ensure you have chosen a drive that will meet the customer's needs. Look for one with up to 6TB of capacity on a single drive.

- **High system bay count support:** The right drive will include hardware vibration sensors to enable higher drive-count systems, as well as higher system and hard drive workloads.

- **Extensive compatibility with cameras:** Needless to say, the drive you select needs to work with the cameras you are planning to install. One that works with most cameras will make it even easier to keep the right drive on hand, regardless of your current installation scenario.

- **Rugged exterior:** In some cases, the drive may need to live and perform continuously in harsh environments. In this case, you'll want one with tarnish-resistant PCBA protection.

- **Easily upgradable:** In an ideal world, your customer occasionally asks to upgrade or expand their existing surveillance system. A drive that scales with a system when the need to expand arises and makes your job easier will be needed.

Considering the importance of storage in surveillance systems, you may also find it helpful to use a capacity calculator to help determine how much storage is needed for the length of time data is to be maintained for a particular surveillance system.

If you're looking for calculators and drive selection tools to help you find the right drive and capacity for your needs, you may visit [www.wdc.com](http://www.wdc.com).



## THINK SMART

### Epson Bundles Its Interactive Projectors with SMART Notebook Software



Epson, together with SMART Technologies Inc., announced an agreement to include the SMART Notebook collaborative learning software to Epson's interactive projectors for education models worldwide, aiming to provide a potent combination for collaborative learning.

The new agreement allows Epson to bundle the SMART Notebook software, including a SMART Notebook Advantage subscription during the first year, with its interactive projectors as a standard offering on a worldwide basis. The subscription lets customers upgrade to new versions of the software within the first year, as well as access technical support and unlock premium features.

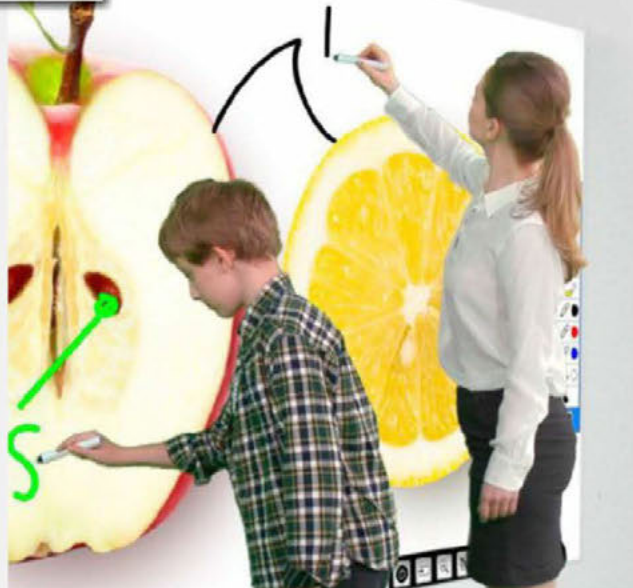
The winning combination allows educators around the world to use Epson's interactive projector with a collaborative learning software to create visually compelling, engaging, and interactive learning experiences.

SMART fully supports Epson's interactive features, such as the dual pen and finger touch. Both companies are also set to provide customer support and training for their respective products, giving educators full confidence as they bring more collaboration into classrooms and other learning spaces.

For more details and announcements, you can visit Epson's official website at [www.epson.com.ph](http://www.epson.com.ph).



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## WHAT'S COOKING?

### Philips Partners with Celebrity Mom for a Week of Kitchen Wonders



Believing in the power of home-cooked meals, Philips, in partnership with celebrity mom Pia Magalona, wanted to show just how easy it was to come up with your own delectable wonders with a little pep and a few innovative solutions that are made for the kitchen.

How many times have you ever wanted to treat your loved ones to a nice, full-course meal, only to find out that you're too tired and don't have enough time to prepare?

Time has become a luxury for the modern family, with busy schedules getting in the way of spending quality time together. Because the family's fondest memories often take place around the dinner table, special attention has to be given to the quality of the food you serve. What better

way to show your love than to cook everyone's favorite dishes, but with that distinctly healthy twist?

Philips and Pia Magalona went all out to deliver delicious, healthy cooking in just minutes. With eight children, five of whom fully pursuing careers in the arts and show business, Pia sure knew a thing or two about keeping a family together. Her secret? Great meals and quality time spent with the family.

In her series of cooking videos, Pia featured a range of Philips' kitchen appliances, including the Airfryer, Power Juicer, Food Processor, and Electric Pressure Cooker to prepare a set of healthy and delicious meals, desserts, and drinks in mere minutes.

Visit [www.philips.com.ph](http://www.philips.com.ph) for more details.

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## PREPARE TO OWN YOUR WORLD

### Toyota Unveils All-New Fortuner



Last January, Toyota gave an exclusive preview of the much-awaited full model change of its mid-size SUV, the Fortuner. The iconic name originates from the word "fortunate," specifically chosen to symbolize a new type of model designed for customers who long to own a prestigious SUV. Moreover, the name also evokes a strong and active persona.

In this latest generation, Toyota focuses in creating a more distinctive, sleek, and powerful design, while improving its performance.

With a longer and wider stance versus its previous generation, the All-New Fortuner looks smarter and bolder in every angle. It has a dynamic but sophisticated front design for both urban and outdoor zones. Its side view is equally tough as expressed through a streamlined profile. The G grade comes in sporty 17-inch alloy wheels, while the V grade flashes a stylish set of 18-inch alloy wheels.

The All-New Fortuner now comes with a capacitive touchscreen audio

with navigation and a Multi-Information Display for both the G and the V grades. Its engine's performance is maximized in the newly developed six-speed transmission, which allows the All-New Fortuner to balance powerful performance with fuel efficiency. Aside from performance, the SUV's new engine is considerably more discreet in practical usage conditions – vibrations and road noise are well suppressed even on rough terrain. Its handling and ride comfort have been improved on all road conditions, too.

Toyota's All-New Fortuner driving experience has been brought to even greater heights, as seen in its new, convenient, and modern driving options. Its Drive Mode Select is available in both the G and V grades, allowing the SUV to easily switch from more fuel-efficient drives to more powerful rides.

For passenger safety, the All-New Fortuner (4x4 V only) is completely equipped with front, driver knee, side, and curtain shield airbags.

For more information on Toyota's latest SUV and its other offerings, you can log on to [www.toyota.com.ph](http://www.toyota.com.ph).

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# Love in the Time of Tinder

## Tinder Tips for Single Men

**Let's take random guesses. We know it's the month of love, so right now:**

- a.** You're imagining how you're going to die alone surrounded by cats or dogs;
- b.** You're on a date with all your single friends, bowling, crocheting, or playing bingo or board games, while you complain about all the happy couples around you;
- c.** You're moping around and feeling sorry for yourself because you think you've been doomed to spend Valentine's Day for the rest of your life alone;
- d.** And you're doing all of the above, because, duh, that's what singles do all the time.



### A P P S

Believe me. There are worse things in life than being single. I know you're already tired of reading articles about the twenty fabulous ways to spend Valentine's Day when you're single, in addition to why single is better, so I'm not going to enthuse you with all that stuff anymore.

Apparently, there's one techie way to spend Valentine's Day without taking the fun out of anything and making it more stressful than it already is. I'm talking about using Tinder.

Yes, Tinder is one legit way of meeting people. It's the same with being in a bar; you spot a hottie and say hi. Skipping a real bar in exchange of using Tinder, however, won't save you from those awkward silences and rejection that will come after that one hi. That's why I'm here to introduce you to the lighter side of rejection and rescue you before things become awkward.

It's not rocket science. We're in an extremely evolved generation, so it's not hard to figure out why someone would build a location-based app such as Tinder for the general goal of getting hookups. We have a conservative society, but we're more mature now to see Tinder as a serious dating app where we can find potential partners, and maybe even love.

### Know It Well

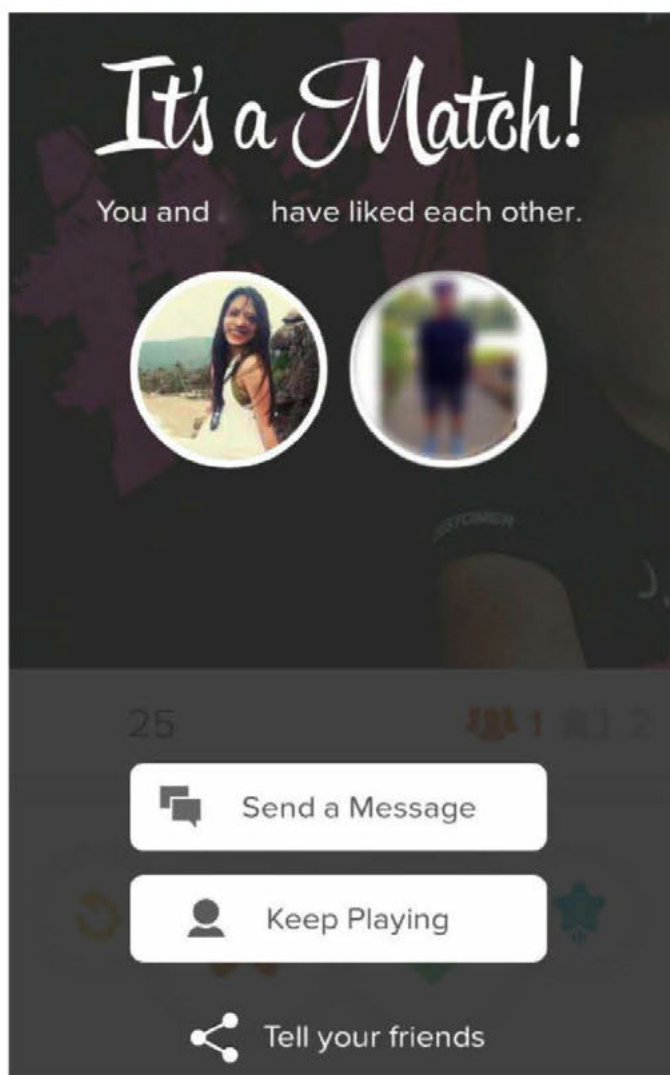
If you're single and not yet on Tinder, now's the time to create a profile. Build one by connecting your Facebook account. You can connect your Instagram account, too. What you put on your profile greatly affects your chances of getting matches with the right people, so you need to be careful. If you want people to take you seriously, put your photos and bio into priority.

Tinder allows you to pick six photos. Four is already good, but it's up to you. For the four photos, here's what you need: (1) your best photo – no nude or bikini pictures, (2) a photo that shows your interests, (3) a photo with friends, and (4) a power photo – a full body shot is great.

### Express Yourself

So now you got yourself a Tinder profile. What's next? You can't make one and expect to have a queue of women at your disposal without swiping right. Just don't be too choosy or you'll end up losing the biggest opportunity of your life.

It takes guts to talk to strangers you like in person. I feel you. But, hey, it won't hurt to send us a message. A witty one-liner would put you ahead of everybody else. If you can't think of something witty, how about asking us a question? Women won't wait forever. If you just got the match of your lifetime, you can't just leave it like that. I'd rather you ask me how my day went than say nothing at all.

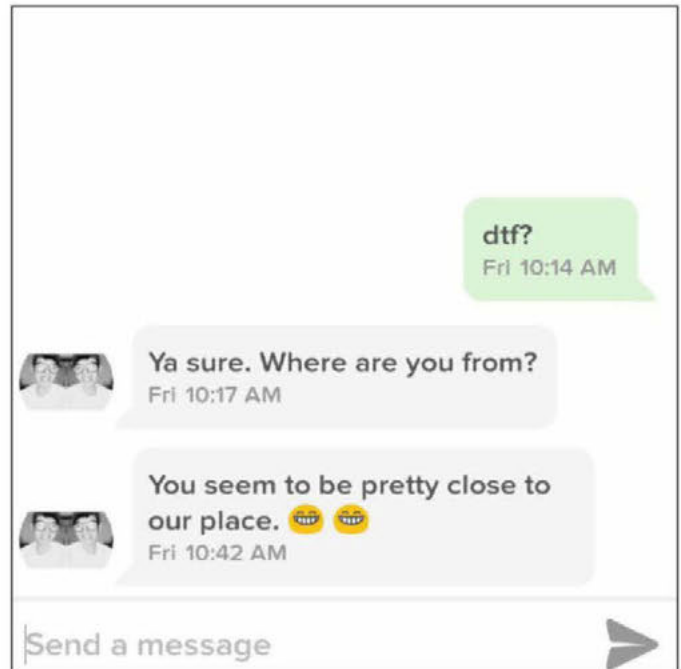


Great photos, plus an interesting bio, equals a match.





This guy has a lot of interesting things to say about himself. Be this guy!



Don't act too desperate. Don't do this.

## Don't Be That Guy

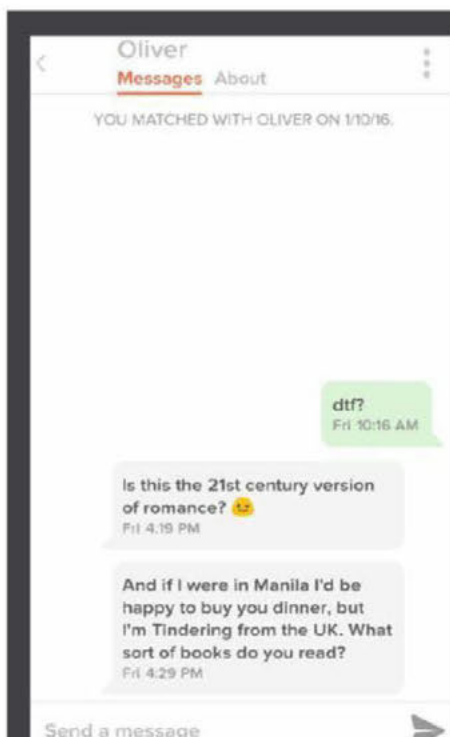
Within two months of tinkering with the app, swiping left, swiping right, and even super liking a handful of men, I can honestly say that my Tinder experience has been nothing short of fun, although in some moments, it became a bit disturbing.

A lot of us have been single for such a long time that it's almost depressing, so if you guys will just send us "Down to F\*\*k" (DTF) or "One Night Stand" (ONS) messages, we might as well just stay single for the rest of our lives. Quite over the top, I know, but I guess a lot of us are still pretty old-fashioned.

I did a little experiment by sending DTF messages to ten men. Almost half of them didn't know what it meant, at least a quarter were enthusiastic, and

some would rather invite me to dinner, while the rest appeared uninterested by giving no reply at all. Quite agreeable results, so thank you, because I'd rather you invite me for coffee than ask me to hook up with you. There were three guys who were frank enough to invite me for a hookup. I'm telling you. Don't ever be like them.

Being on Tinder doesn't have guarantees. It won't give you a girlfriend or boyfriend in an instant, although it gives you options. A lot have been on it for months, and haven't scored a date. You don't have to feel sorry if you're spending Valentine's Day alone this year, because who knows, one of these days, you might score one, so just keep playing until you come across somebody who is genuinely interesting to actually meet in person.



Dinner is definitely still our thing.



Beer photos, seriously? Nope.



Now this one is creative. Thank you for the effort!



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# SPORTS-ORIENTED

## Nikon D5

[www.nikon.ph](http://www.nikon.ph)

Primarily built for sports, the Nikon D5 features brand-new autofocus and metering sensors to handle fast-moving subjects. It has a megapixel count of 20 megapixels and shooting speeds of 12fps (with AF and AE) and 14fps (with fixed focus and exposure). The AF module has 153 focal points, 99 of which are cross-type, and the extended buffer lets the D5 shoot up to 200 frames of 14-bit lossless RAW/NEF files with JPEG at fine settings. This new flagship full-frame DSLR also has an extreme low-light performance, with extended ISO 3 million and AF sensitivity.





# We Do **WEB 2.0!**

\* The Internet constantly changes, and as its capabilities expand, so do ours. With the advent of new means to stay connected with people, such as social networking, microblogging, and media streaming, the Hardware Zone team maximizes them to deliver to you the latest and most relevant updates from the IT and consumer electronics world in real time!

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**facebook.**

## **Be A Fan! Be A Friend!**

\* With a user base of over 800 million people and growing, Facebook is today's most excellent avenue to reach diverse audiences. Our Facebook pages serve as a melting pot of updates from HWM Philippines and HardwareZone.com.ph. [www.facebook.com/HWM.Philippines](http://www.facebook.com/HWM.Philippines) and [www.facebook.com/HardwareZonePH](http://www.facebook.com/HardwareZonePH)

**twitter**

## **Follow Us!**

\* Short, sweet, and simple - these are words that exactly describe the Twitter phenomenon and why around 300 million registered users across the globe love it. Harnessing this straightforward style, we serve you tech news hot off the press. [www.twitter.com/HardwareZonePH](http://www.twitter.com/HardwareZonePH)

**You Tube**

## **We Broadcast!**

\* If pictures are worth a thousand words, then videos speak volumes. Our YouTube channel showcases footage from recent events, product test shots, and more. The real celebrities are the technologies and innovations. [www.youtube.com/HardwareZonePH](http://www.youtube.com/HardwareZonePH)



# COMPACT AND PORTABLE

## Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Tablet

[www.lenovo.com/ph](http://www.lenovo.com/ph)

Of all the new ThinkPad X1 devices, the ThinkPad X1 Tablet is the most compact and portable device designed for business users. It flaunts a 12-inch IPS display with a resolution of 2160 x 1440 and an aspect ratio of 3:2, making it arguably more adapted for running productivity apps. The tablet alone measures 8.4mm thick and weighs 795g. It runs on Windows 10, and can be paired with a TrackPoint pointing device and a keyboard cover that features full-sized ThinkPad keys. It also has interchangeable modules that attach themselves to the bottom of the tablet for added functions.



# EFFICIENT WORKSTATION

## Samsung Galaxy TabPro S

[www.samsung.com/ph](http://www.samsung.com/ph)

The Samsung Galaxy TabPro S runs on full Windows 10 Home or Windows 10 Pro, and is powered by a sixth-generation 2.2GHz Intel Core M processor with 4GB of RAM. This tablet has a sturdy magnesium alloy frame with a smooth finish. It only has a single port, but it's a good one, as it is the first to ship with a USB 3.1 Type-C port, which means you'll be able to enjoy data transfer bandwidth of up to 10 gigabits per second. If you need more expansion, Samsung will also be selling an optional port hub with HDMI and USB Type-A and Type-C ports.

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# UNCONVENTIONAL GAMING

## MSI Vortex

[www.msi.com](http://www.msi.com)

If you want a powerful system, but just doesn't have the space for it, the Vortex is right for you. It is MSI's first ever small form factor (SFF) gaming PC. The 6.5L cylindrical chassis is clearly a godsend, and it has been expressly designed to fit high-performance hardware into a small space, while still providing sufficient airflow to all components. It features MSI's 360-degree cooling approach, Silent Storm Cooling, and packs two NVIDIA GeForce GTX 980 desktop-class graphics cards in SLI. Also, it can be configured with sixth-generation Intel Skylake processors.



# EXPERIENCE IT CURVED

## AOC C3583FQ

[www.aoc.com](http://www.aoc.com)

AOC's new offering is a curved 35-inch C3583FQ gaming monitor with a resolution of 2560 x 1080 pixels and 160Hz refresh rate. It supports AMD's FreeSync variable refresh rate technology, and it uses a VA panel from AU Optronics for better viewing angles. It also features a wide range of display connectors, including HDMI, DVI, DisplayPort, and D-Sub inputs. There is a 3.5mm audio jack for you to plug your headphones directly to the monitor, as well, in addition to one more 3.5mm input jack and two rear-facing 5-watt speakers.

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### VIEWSONIC VX2573-SHW



The ViewSonic VX2573-shw is a premium 25-inch Full HD multimedia display with a matte SuperClear AH-IPS panel enclosed in a silver-and-white metallic design. It has a resolution of 1920 x 1080 suitable for viewing high-definition media. [www.ap.viewsonic.com/ph](http://www.ap.viewsonic.com/ph)



### CASIO WSD-F10

// US\$ 500



As the first watch with a built-in microphone that is water resistant up to 50 meters and features a dual-layer display structure that meets US military standards, the Casio WSD-F10 is considered as the smartest outdoor watch in the market to date. [www.casio.com](http://www.casio.com)



### COOLER MASTER MASTERKEYS PRO L



A full-sized board with a number pad that offers the full range of RGB lighting, the MasterKeys Pro L is the first Cooler Master keyboard that lets you pick from up to 16.7 million possible colors. It also comes with multiple lighting presets. [www.coolermaster.com](http://www.coolermaster.com)



### SONY WS414 WALKMAN



Rated at IP68, the Sony WS414 Walkman comes with intense weatherproofing. It's also dustproof, salt-waterproof, and sandproof, plus comes with a rustproof coating on its surface. At 32g, the product is designed for a comfortable fit, even during water sports. [www.sony.com.ph](http://www.sony.com.ph)



### PIONEER CDJ-2000XS2

// US\$ 2,199



With a high-resolution, 7-inch touchscreen display and a host of new features, the Pioneer CDJ-2000XS2 offers a more intuitive browsing and track selection. It's equipped with a 96kHz/24-bit sound card, and supports FLAC and ALAC high-quality formats. [www.pioneer.ph](http://www.pioneer.ph)



### RAZER BLADE STEALTH

// From US\$ 999



The Razer Blade Stealth is a 12.5-inch Ultrabook that comes in two variants: one with a QHD display and one with a 4K display. Both come with an Intel Core i7-6500U processor, Intel HD Graphics 520, 8GB DDR3L, and variable SSD options. [www.razerzone.com](http://www.razerzone.com)

### SYNOLOGY DISKSTATION DS416J

// US\$ 289.99



Equipped with a dual-core CPU that is claimed to exceed 112MB per second reading and 101MB per second writing speeds, the Synology DiskStation DS416j 4-bay NAS is perfect for home users who want a massive amount of storage without breaking the bank. [www.synology.com](http://www.synology.com)



### XIAOMI REDMI 3

Sporting a full-metal body and a new lattice design on the rear, the Redmi 3 is the latest affordable smartphone from Xiaomi. It's equipped with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 616 octa-core processor with 2GB of RAM, and runs on MIUI 7. [www.mi.com/ph](http://www.mi.com/ph)



### CREATIVE X-FI SONIC CARRIER

// US\$ 5,000

With ten aluminum cone mid-bass 2.75-inch drivers and five wide dispersion 0.75-inch titanium dome super tweeters, the Creative X-Fi Sonic Carrier high-end soundbar is expected to challenge several established home audio brands in the market. [www.creative.com](http://www.creative.com)



### APACER AC235

The Apacer AC235 portable hard drive is an essential partner for your storage needs. It is compact and light, easy to travel with, and comes in 500GB and 1TB capacities, using the high-speed USB 3.1 interface that reduces data transmission time. [www.apacer.com](http://www.apacer.com)

# LAB RESULTS

Every month, behind the doors of our super secret gadget testing facility, the latest tech products are put through their paces using industry-recognized benchmarks and our own blend of real-world usage scenarios. Here are our findings!



## THE AWARDS



10



9/9.5



8/8.5



Best Performance



Best Value

Review scores of 8/8.5 are awarded the Silver Award. 9/9.5 get the Gold. ONLY a perfect 10 wins our Platinum Award.



For more comprehensive takes on the features and performance of the products reviewed here, visit [HardwareZone.com.ph](http://HardwareZone.com.ph).



# BlackBerry Priv

## PRIVACY IS PRICEY

BlackBerry never really went away. Moving with the times, they've come up with a great idea for a product – by combining all their strengths, such as their hallmark physical keyboard and heightened smartphone security features that they're renowned for, but pairing all that with a smartphone running on an Android OS.

The BlackBerry Priv has a huge (compared to most BlackBerry devices) 5.4-inch QHD display, resulting in a reasonably high pixel density of 540ppi. The phone's interface and apps are clearly rendered, though app logos do not look very sharp. However, text appears sharp and clear – a huge plus given that the Priv is still targeted at business-minded users.

At a glance, the keyboard seems like a simplified version of the old BlackBerry keyboards. Our experience with it, though, was cramped with buttons that were too small for our thumbs;

this observation made in comparison with the BlackBerry Bold 9900. Nonetheless, the accuracy and tactile feel turn out well for the Priv once you get past this learning curve.

The Priv is loaded with Android 5.1.1 (Lollipop) and powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 808 64-bit processor. It's accompanied by 3GB of RAM and 32GB of internal storage. We had no issues with its performance, as it's one of the smoothest and fastest BlackBerry phones we've encountered so far. Storage space is further expandable by another 2TB via microSD.

On the rear, the Priv comes with an 18-megapixel rear camera, with an f/2.2 aperture using a six-element lens configuration. It boasts many powerful photography features, such as optical image stabilization for less blurry photos, phase-detect autofocus for breakneck focusing speeds, and backside

illumination stacked sensor for better performance in low-light conditions. Our quick rear camera test proved that the photos taken have some artifacts along the edges of the subjects and backgrounds, but it's otherwise a very decent camera for a modern smartphone.

The 3400mAh battery capacity is larger than some other 5.5-inch smartphones on the market. According to BlackBerry, the Priv is capable of up to 23.9 hours of talk time, and averages about 22.5 hours for mixed use, which turned out to be true for our real-world usage.

The Priv works like a decent Android smartphone through and through; it's a solid effort by BlackBerry for its first Android device. However, it still has much room for improvement if BlackBerry wants to win back the average consumer. At Php 45,000, there is a sea of Android devices that offer more for less.

by Liu Hongzuo

### AT A GLANCE

#### OS

Android 5.1.1 Lollipop

#### Display

5.4-inch LCD  
(2560 x 1440)

#### Processor

Qualcomm  
Snapdragon 808  
(Hexa-core)

#### Storage

32GB, expandable up to  
2TB via microSD

#### Price

Php 45,000



The Priv comes with an impressive 18-megapixel rear camera, making it a flagship device.

### CONCLUSION

**The BlackBerry Priv works like a decent Android smartphone through and through; it's a solid effort by BlackBerry for its first Android device, but it costs a whopping sum.**

TESTED & RATED

**8.0**<sub>/10</sub>

**HWM**  
PHILIPPINES





## AT A GLANCE

**Socket**

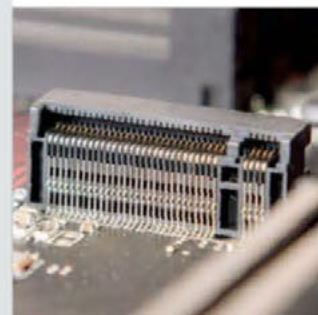
Intel LGA 1151

**Memory Slots**

4x DIMM, up to 64GB

**Expansion Slots**3x PCIe 3.0 x16,  
4x PCIe 3.0 x1**Storage Options**2x SATA Express,  
2x M.2 x4,  
6x SATA 6Gbps**Price**

PhP 10,950



The MSI board comes with two M.2 slots to house your M.2 SSDs for storage.

# MSI Z170A Gaming M5

## MIDRANGE OVERCLOCKING

Most of the Z170 motherboards that we have taken a look at have been relatively high-end thus far. However, not all system builders have the cash to drop on a high-end motherboard. This time, we will be taking a look at MSI's Z170A Gaming M5 motherboard; an upper-midrange board to house your Skylake CPU.

Like most gaming-branded motherboards in the market, MSI has opted with the black-and-red color scheme, which looks very snazzy. In order to minimize costs, the board does not come with any RGB lighting.

The I/O panel features four USB 3.1 Gen1 ports, two USB 3.1 Gen2 (Type A and C) ports, two USB 2.0 ports, PS/2 combination port, five gold-plated 3.5mm audio jacks for 5.1 surround, S/PDIF, one RJ-45 Killer NIC, plus DVI-D and HDMI video outputs.

Located near the CPU socket are two dedicated fan headers. The CPU area is free of any large obstructions to allow

you to fit large CPU coolers without any issues. The board is outfitted with four DIMM slots that can support up to 64GB of DDR4 RAM with speeds of up to 3600MHz. It also comes with an LED POST code display to help with troubleshooting.

The board comes with three PCIe 3.0 x16 slots (two of which are reinforced by steel to support beefier GPUs and prevent GPU sag) and four PCIe 3.0 x1 slots. For storage, you have access to two M.2 slots and six SATA 6Gbps ports, four of which are shared with two SATA Express ports.

In terms of firmware, the Gaming M5 comes with MSI's Click BIOS 5. MSI's UEFI is quite user-friendly; in EZ mode, the UEFI is laid out sensibly and all settings are labeled for beginners. Advanced overclockers can press F7 to enter advanced mode where you can change the BCLK, CPU multiplier, RAM timings, and voltages to push your CPU further.

MSI has also included a comprehensive software

suite which includes MSI's Gaming App, Command Center, RAMDisk, one-year subscription to XSplit Gamecaster, and Nahimic for your audio.

To test the motherboard's performance, we supplied it with an Intel i7-6700K, Corsair Dominator Platinum 16GB 2666MHz, and GeForce GTX 960.

We ran Cinebench R15 first, where it got a score of 911cb in the CPU test and 131.7fps with the OpenGL test. On PCMark 8, it was able to get a score of 4482 on Home Conventional, 4801 on Creative Conventional, and 3765 on Work Conventional. For gaming, we ran 3DMark Fire Strike where it got a score of 6901.

If you are on a relatively tight budget, but still want a motherboard that can overclock and comes with all the essentials of a Z170 motherboard, the MSI Z170A Gaming M5 is a smart pick for your Skylake build.

by *Chester Labaco*

## CONCLUSION

**If you are on a relatively tight budget, but still want a motherboard that can overclock, the MSI Z170A Gaming M5 is a smart pick for your Skylake build.**

TESTED &amp; RATED

9.0/10

HWM  
PHILIPPINES



# ASUS ROG Maximus VIII Formula

## ARMORED BEHEMOTH

If you've been saving up to buy a high-end Skylake build, chances are you've been looking through several motherboards. Today, we will take a look at ASUS' high-end offering in the Z170 chipset range: the ASUS ROG Maximus VIII Formula.

Let us say this outright: This thing is outright bodacious. Clad in ROG Armor, ASUS has removed the red trimmings and stuck with a gunmetal/black design that looks classy and minimalistic. Behind the armor lies a waterblock co-designed by EK. If you're going to water-cool your motherboard, you no longer need to purchase a separate waterblock for your board. They have also equipped the ROG Armor with AURA lighting. Basically, the ROG logo, Formula logo, and the PCIe slots contain full-spectrum RGB lighting. You can control the color and the effects of the lighting using the ROG AURA software. ASUS has given the users a plethora of options to control

the lighting, including static, breathing, and color cycle.

The CPU area is a bit cramped due to the ROG Armor; however, you should still be able to fit large AIO coolers without any hassle. Four DIMM slots are available that can support up to 64GB of DDR4 RAM with speeds of up to 3733MHz

At the back are the BIOS reset switch, 2x2 Wi-Fi antennae with MU-MIMO, one HDMI 1.4b port, one DisplayPort 1.2, six USB 3.1 Gen1 ports, two USB 3.1 Gen2 (Type A and C), one combination PS/2 port, five 3.5mm audio jacks for 5.1 surround, S/PDIF, and one RJ-45 Intel 1219-V Gigabit LAN.

In terms of expansion slots, the board comes with three PCIe 3.0 x16 slots that support either SLI or Crossfire. Three PCIe 2.0 x1 slots are also available for additional connectivity.

For storage, you have access to one U.2 slot, one M.2 socket 3 with M Key, and eight SATA 6Gbps, four of which are shared with two SATA Express slots.

Not much has changed in the UEFI of the Formula.

All the bells and whistles for overclocking are still available with additional options to change the lighting through the UEFI.

To test the board, we equipped it with an Intel i7-6700K, Corsair Dominator Platinum 16GB 2666MHz, and GeForce GTX 960 card.

We ran Cinebench R15, where it got a score of 912cb in the CPU test and 159.32fps with the OpenGL test. On PCMark 8, it was able to get a score of 4515 on Home Conventional, 5059 on Creative Conventional, and 3769 on Work Conventional. For gaming, we ran 3DMark Fire Strike where it got a score of 6939.

An excellent performer, with sexy looks and RGB lighting to boot – if you're looking for a no-holds-barred board to join the PC Master Race, then look no further than this motherboard.

by Chester Labaco

### AT A GLANCE

#### Socket

Intel LGA 1151

#### Memory Slots

4x DIMM, up to 64GB

#### Expansion Slots

3x PCIe 3.0 x16,  
3x PCIe 2.0 x1

#### Storage Options

2x SATA Express,  
1x U.2,  
1x M.2 M Key,  
6x SATA 6Gbps

#### Price

Php 21,520



The ROG Armor comes equipped with AURA lighting that is capable of displaying full-spectrum RGB.

### CONCLUSION

**An excellent performer, with sexy looks and RGB lighting to boot – if you're looking for a no-holds-barred board to join the PC Master Race, then look no further than this motherboard.**

TAP FOR  
WEBSITE



TESTED & RATED

**9.5**<sub>/10</sub>

**HWM**  
PHILIPPINES



TAP FOR  
WEBSITE

# ASUS ZenFone 2 Deluxe Special Edition

## GREATNESS IN EXCESS

The future of storage is in the cloud, but as long as Internet speeds in the Philippines continue to hamper our online lives on the go, offline file storage is still highly valuable. The ASUS ZenFone 2 Deluxe Special Edition offers a monstrous amount of space, and does so in premium fashion.

It's a mouthful of a name, but the moniker is well deserved. Based on the ZenFone 2 Deluxe, the Special Edition spices up the look further with a red trim and a choice between Carbon Night and Drift Silver covers, both of which are included in the package. Everything else is physically the same as the original year-old ZenFone 2, which isn't necessarily a good thing. With so many slim 5.5- to 6-inch smartphones released since last year, this phablet feels so bulky in comparison.

The real highlight, however, is how much you get on the inside. The standout feature is obviously the 256GB of total

storage (128GB internally, plus a bundled 128GB microSD card), and when you factor in the class-leading 4GB of RAM and new Intel Atom Z3590 2.5GHz processor, you've got the most specs-heavy midrange smartphone in the market today.

We ran the ZenFone 2 Deluxe Special Edition through some benchmarks and *Asphalt 8: Airborne* (which comes with 25,000 of in-game credits), and it performed pretty much how we expected it to. Like all other ZenFone 2 iterations, the Intel chip and abundant RAM fly through all the applications we throw at them, which shouldn't be a surprise, especially since this is the most high-end Intel Atom SoC ASUS has employed so far.

With that, we were also expecting even worse battery life than before, but to our delight, that wasn't the case. You can squeeze out as much as an hour of additional screen-on time on the Deluxe Special Edition

as compared to the original ZenFone 2, providing you with one-and-a-half days of moderate usage on a single charge. If ASUS manages to further optimize its ZenUI and hopefully get its phones to at least Android 5.1, then we'll finally have a complete Zen experience. With a healthy dose of saturation and sharpness throughout every photo, the camera is as good as ever, and still one of the best in the midrange segment. It's a shame that it still takes so long to start up and focus, but you'll have ample storage to keep shooting.

The Special Edition costs Php 3,000 more than the regular Deluxe variant, and that includes an extra back plate, 128GB microSD card, and bonus in-game credits. It's certainly worth the added price, but do consider that this puts the Special Edition north of Php 20,000, making it one of the most expensive ZenFones available in the Philippines.

by Marvin R. Velasco

### AT A GLANCE

**OS**  
Android 5.0 Lollipop

**Display**  
5.5-inch IPS LCD  
(1920 x 1080)

**Processor**  
Intel Atom Z3590  
(Quad-core, 2.5GHz)

**Storage**  
128GB internal +  
128GB microSD

**Price**  
Php 20,995



You get a choice of two swappable back covers out of the box, but the battery is not user-replaceable.

### CONCLUSION

**Multimedia junkies rejoice! This high-storage model holds some of the best qualities of the ZenFone series, and should keep us busy until the next generation from ASUS rolls out this year.**

TESTED & RATED

**8.5**<sub>/10</sub>

**HWM**  
PHILIPPINES



# Sennheiser HD 451

## LOW-COST LISTENING EXPERIENCE



We were so used to looking at premium headphones from Sennheiser that when the HD 451 arrived in our lab, there was no telling how much taken aback we were when we saw its tag price.

Unveiled around the end of last year, the Sennheiser HD 451 is one of the three affordable headphones that Sennheiser first introduced at IFA 2015. It is one good-looking pair of headphones. It's made of plastic, so you can easily tell it's weight; the plastic build made it look inexpensive, though. On the bright side, it's lightweight, giving you the best of comfort, and even though the ear cups felt suitable to our ears, others may feel a little different, as they are quite big.

We understand that, out of the three new Sennheiser models in the lineup, the HD

451 is the most affordable, but it still wouldn't hurt if Sennheiser actually thought of including an in-line remote and mic to it, plus volume control. We would have liked it better, too, if the cord were removable. Considering the price, however, the overall package is quite sensible.

We played a variety of songs to see how it performs. Pop songs sounded incredibly good, and, surprisingly, even rock, too. The bass is strong, and the instruments play in the background without overpowering the singer. Music separates well from both drivers, making the headphones a great output for stereo sound.

Sound is at its clearest and most comfortable to listen to when the volume is set between the middle and highest

volumes. If you plan to use it for long periods of time, we recommend setting it above the median volume level.

Overall, we believe the Sennheiser HD 451 offers great sound quality at a very reasonable price.

by Ashley Lucas

TESTED & RATED

**8.5**<sub>/10</sub>

**HWM**  
PHILIPPINES



### AT A GLANCE

**Type**  
Over-ear

**Impedance**  
32 ohms

**Frequency Response**  
20Hz - 20KHz

**Price**  
Php 2,955

# Apacer AS330 Panther

## BACK IN BLACK



Solid State Drives (SSD) have been slowly but steadily creeping up to the mainstream these days; there has been an influx of consumer-grade SSDs released over the years. Apacer has decided to jump on the SSD bandwagon, and today, we will take a look at one of its offerings: the AS330 Panther.

The package of the AS330 Panther is extremely bare bones. The box only contains the SSD itself. It would have been nice if they included a 2.5-inch to 3.5-inch drive adapter. However, most cases nowadays are equipped with a 2.5-inch drive bay, anyway.

Stylistically, the AS330 is clad in black panther print, which looks nice if you are going to incorporate the color black in your build.

The AS330 Panther comes in four different capacities: 120GB, 240GB, 480GB, and 960GB. We will be taking a look at the second one in the list. Apacer advertises that the AS330 Panther SSD 240GB can have read speeds of up to 495MB/s and write speeds of up to 385MB/s. To test the claims of Apacer, we connected the drive to a SATA III-compatible motherboard to see how well the drive performs.

We fired up CrystalDiskMark to see how fast the AS330 Panther is. Based on our tests, the AS330 got 448MB/s in sequential read and 410.4MB/s in sequential write while it garnered a score of 24.97MB/s in random 4KiB read and 89.15MB/s in random 4KiB write.

Despite the incredibly basic

package, Apacer's AS330 Panther SSD performs great. Both read and write benchmarks reached the promised speeds. The 240GB edition would make a great OS drive, as well as a great SSD to install programs where you require speed.

by Chester Labaco

TESTED & RATED

**8.5**<sub>/10</sub>

**HWM**  
PHILIPPINES



### AT A GLANCE

**Capacity**  
120GB, 240GB, 480GB, 960GB

**Connectivity**  
SATA III

**Speed**  
Write: Up to 545MB/s  
Read: Up to 545MB/s

**Price**  
Inquire

# ON A MOTORCYCLE MISSION

Celebrity Teen King Daniel Padilla is on a mission. Complete with a leather jacket and boots, the bad boy drops by to talk about motorcycles, as he's currently headlining Honda's Generation Smart (Gen-S) motorcycles. Read on to know his personal favorite!





PHOTOS HONDA PHILIPPINES



**ENHANCED SMART POWER**

- ✓ Fuel efficient
- ✓ High Power & Torque



**IDLING STOP**

- ✓ Eco-friendly
- ✓ Fuel Saver



**COMBI BRAKE**

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Convenient







It would be a crime not to know who Daniel Padilla is. Young, handsome, and influential, the reigning Teen King in local showbiz is hard to miss.

In 2010, Daniel, also known as DJ, began his career in showbiz. His charm and great skills in acting and singing, launched him to the top of the ladder. Today, he can be seen in various movie and television projects, and is being recognized by both local and international award-giving bodies. Daniel even does concert tours between all those. In addition to reducing a lot of girls into piles of goo with his charming eyes and radiant smile, he does numerous endorsements, as well.

Now, we're set to see more of him, as he becomes the newest endorser of the latest innovative breed of Honda motorcycles. The bad boy look, complete with a leather jacket and boots, plus his cool way of speaking, makes the 20-year-old actor the perfect endorser for Honda.

Daniel Padilla first appeared on the cover of our December 2014 issue, which also happened to be our 10th anniversary issue. It's now his second time gracing our cover, coincidentally, only a month after his onscreen partner Kathryn Bernardo charmed us with her beauty.

Now, the Teen King is on a mission. He's aiming to excite our readers as he headlines Honda's Generation Smart (Gen-S) motorcycles.

According to the young actor, he's proud that he was chosen to endorse Honda's Gen-S motorcycles, which showcase better fuel-efficiency, road safety, and eco-friendly features for riders.

"Hindi lang kasi sa porma dapat maganda, pati na rin sa features – matipid, eco-friendly, at safe sa kalsada. 'Pag smart rider ka, dito ka sa Honda Gen-S motorcycles," Daniel said.

The new generation of Honda motorcycles is designed for the young Filipino's varying needs and lifestyles, and is perfect for the diverse personalities of the emerging generation of smart riders.

The Beat-Fi "Let Your Beat Out," Click 125i "Join the Evolution," and Zoomer-X "I Am. Unstoppable" are three of the new Honda motorcycles, which are equipped with Honda Smart Technology, set to enhance and create positive impacts in riders' everyday lives.

Among the three motorcycles, Daniel considers the Honda Zoomer-X his personal favorite. The young actor finds its tough and durable design concept, which goes with a fuel-efficient 110cc engine for a cleaner combustion and higher torque power, fitting to his needs.

Another Gen-S motorcycle that riders might be interested in is the all-new Honda RS150, which is the brand's newest sports bike.



**ENHANCED  
SMART POWER**

- ✓ Fuel efficient
- ✓ High Power & Torque



**IDLING STOP**

- ✓ Eco-friendly
- ✓ Fuel Saver



**COMBI BRAKE**

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Convenient





# Zoomer-X



## Feel The Excitement

Equipped with Honda Smart Technology, the Gen-S Zoomer-X scooter brings in three main features for scooter enthusiasts to enjoy. It's got enhanced Smart Power (eSP) that enables efficient combustion, as well as minimizes friction to reduce waste, Idling Stop System (ISS) that automatically switches off the engine of the scooter during brief stops to save fuel, and Combi-Brake System (CBS) that allows the application of the right amount of brake power on both wheels of the scooter so that the shortest stopping distance when braking can be achieved. The Honda Zoomer-X is great for extreme rides. It's built to challenge your limits with its remarkable on-road performance, flaunting a stylish design with its futuristic octagon-shaped headlight, inverted front shock, and flexible u-box compartment, all while being powered by a 110cc engine with PGM-FI injection and an air cooling system.

VS

APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS

HUAWEI NEXUS 6P

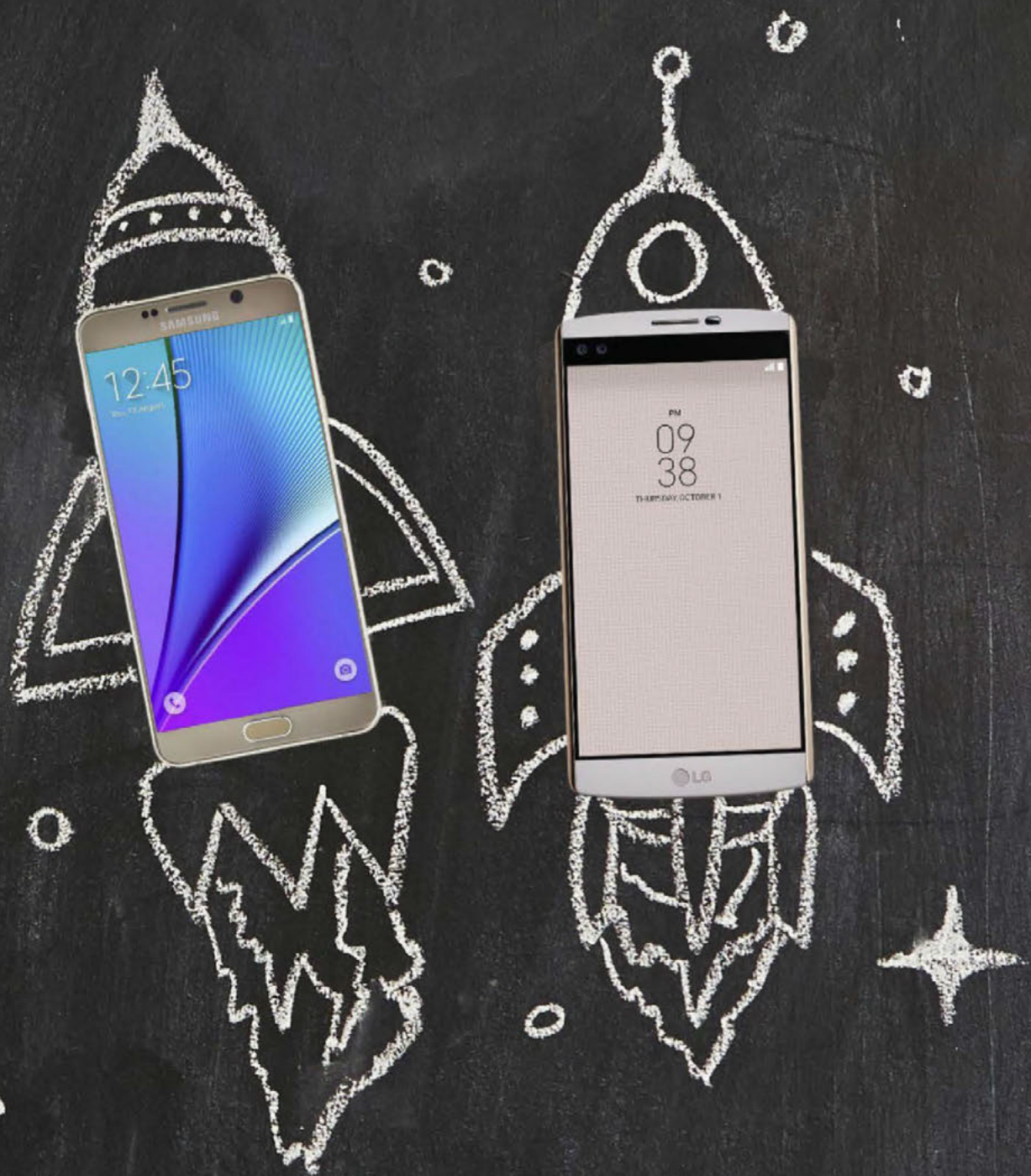
LG V10

SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM







# IT DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN THIS

The high-end smartphone category is one of the most competitive consumer markets out there. It's the place manufacturers showcase their latest and greatest developments, plus the most luxurious designs. We've rounded up five flagships to find out which is truly the best of the best.

Text by *James Lu*

Photography by *Vernon Wong + Darren Chang*

Art Direction by *Ken Koh + Ian Chong*



## APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS

The iPhone 6s Plus is the larger of Apple's two flagship smartphones, and looks essentially the same as last year's 6 Plus. It's a fraction of a millimeter wider, longer, and thicker, but you won't be able to tell the difference. It is 20g heavier than the 6 Plus, though, due to the new 3D Touch sensors and the haptic feedback engine under the display.

The 6s Plus is made from 7000-series aluminum, the same material Apple uses on the Apple Watch Sport. It is tougher than last year, but is otherwise indistinguishable. The glass covering the screen is made using a dual-ion exchange process that makes it less prone to shattering and more resistant to scratches.

The rear iSight camera has been upgraded to 12 megapixels with optical image stabilization, that now works for both videos and photos. The front camera has also been upgraded to 5 megapixels. Besides hardware, Apple introduced Live Photos, a mode that records 1.5 seconds of video before and after hitting the shutter button. Press and hold a Live Photo when viewing, and it will turn into a three-second looping video complete with audio. It's really clever and adds a bit of fun and context to your pictures. Live Photos works with both the front- and rear-facing camera.

While display resolution is identical to its predecessor – 1920 x 1080 (401ppi) – the game changer is a new feature that lets it register varying levels of pressure; Apple calls this the 3D Touch.

On the homescreen, press harder than normal on an app, and a Quick Actions menu will appear with shortcuts related to that app, like taking a selfie with the camera, or calling one of your favorite contacts. Within an app, you can hard press on web URLs, messages, maps, or images to create a Peek window that lets you preview that content. Press harder a second time to Pop that content open in its related app. The 3D Touch is a revolutionary addition to the touchscreen interface that creates a new way to interact with your phone. It makes everything more efficient and convenient.

Powering all this is a new, more powerful 1.8GHz A9 processor.

It's still a dual-core chip, but with an integrated M9 motion co-processor, making it much more power-efficient. Another benefit is the ability to listen for a "Hey Siri" prompt at all times, not just when the phone is plugged in like with the older models. The 6s Plus also benefits from 2GB RAM, twice as much as the 6 Plus. According to Apple, this results in a 70 percent faster CPU, and 90 percent faster GPU.



**3D Touch. Live Photos. Upgraded camera.**



**Looks the same as last year's model. A bit heavier and thicker than last year.**



### AT A GLANCE

#### Operating System

iOS 9

#### Display

5.5-inch Retina HD IPS (1920 x 1080)

#### Processor

Apple A9 64-bit (Dual-core, 1.8GHz)

#### Dimensions

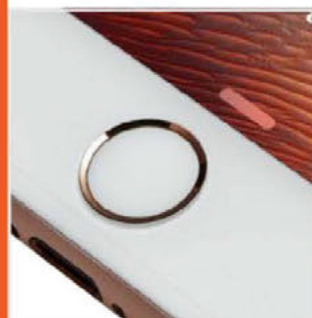
158.2 x 77.9 x 7.3mm

#### Weight

192g

#### Price

From PhP 43,990



The second generation Touch ID scanner is much faster and more reliable than last year's.



The iPhone now comes in four colors: Space Gray, Silver, Gold, and the new Rose Gold.



Hard press on the keyboard when typing a message, and it will turn into a trackpad to move the cursor!



## HUAWEI NEXUS 6P

Time to throw everything you thought you knew about Nexus phones out the window. With the Nexus 6P, Google and Huawei have finally made a flagship-level device with top-notch build quality, and its all-aluminium body is in the same league as Samsung's latest Galaxy line of phones.

The screen is an AMOLED display with a resolution of 2560 x 1440 (518ppi), and on paper, it is identical to the Samsung Galaxy Note 5. In fact, the team behind the Nexus 6P confirms using the latest-generation panels from Samsung, so it might very well be the same as the Note 5. As is typical of AMOLED screens, though, colors can appear a tad bit oversaturated. You can enable sRGB color mode for a more muted but also more accurate screen.

One of the standout features on the Nexus 6P is its excellent fingerprint sensor, dubbed Nexus Imprint, which is located as a nifty little depression on the back of the phone. You may need some time getting used to it if you're used to a Home button sensor, but you'll eventually find that the new placement is a cinch. The sensor's performance was also just about flawless. It read and registered our prints in a heartbeat, regardless of the orientation.

The 6P is also one of the first phones to utilize a

USB Type-C port. The reversible design is a welcome improvement over micro-USB for sure, and USB Type-C offers 15 watts of output that can get the phone from zero to a full charge in about an hour and 40 minutes. USB Type-C, however, isn't that common yet, so cables are still somewhat of a rarity.

The 12.3MP rear camera captures lots of detail with accurate colors, and comes with laser autofocus and a large 1.55µm pixels sensor to capture more light. It also proved fairly adept at capturing close-up shots. One complaint we have is with HDR+ mode; pictures turned out better without it, as its ability to properly balance light and shadow was wonky and inconsistent. Unfortunately, it has no OIS, a feature found on most of the other smartphones in this shootout (the only other exception is the Sony Xperia Z5 Premium).

The 6P is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 v2.1 64-bit octa-core processor with 3GB RAM. This is an updated version of the controversial SoC, previously dogged by reports of overheating and battery drain. Qualcomm has taken steps to rectify these issues in the latest version of the chip. Compared to the older v2.0 SoC, the Adreno 430 GPU also sees a slight increase in GPU clock speeds from 600MHz to 630MHz.

**+**  
**Stock Android 6.0.  
Gorgeous AMOLED  
display.**

**-**  
**Lacks unique features.**



### AT A GLANCE

#### Operating System

Android 6.0 Marshmallow

#### Display

5.7-inch AMOLED  
(2560 x 1440)

#### Processor

Qualcomm Snapdragon 810  
v2.1 (Octa-core)

#### Dimensions

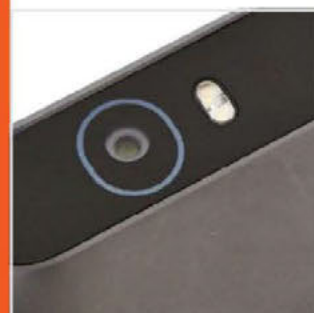
159.3 x 77.8 x 7.3mm

#### Weight

178g

#### Price

From PhP 27,500



The Huawei Nexus 6P has a 12.3-megapixel rear camera with laser autofocus.



The Nexus Imprint fingerprint sensor located at back of the phone works exceedingly well.



The Nexus 6P is equipped with a USB Type-C port that offers 15 watts of output for charging.

## LG V10

The LG V10 is a pretty big departure from LG's previous flagship, the G4. It isn't curved, it isn't plastic, and it doesn't have a leather back. What it does have are two selfie cameras, two displays, and a textured, rubberized rear cover that feels like the grip of a power tool.

Along the sides of the V10, LG has gone for a really nice stainless steel frame. The V10 feels rugged and rigid in a way that its lighter aluminum rivals just can't match – no #bendgate here. Despite this, the V10 only weighs 192g, which is exactly the same as the iPhone 6s Plus. Like LG's previous flagships, all of the buttons on the V10 are positioned at the rear with two volume keys framing one circular power button, which actually doubles as a fingerprint scanner.

The fingerprint scanner works reasonably well, but it isn't quite as fast or accurate as the other phones in our shootout. You need to press down on the power button to wake it, and then wait a second or so for the phone to unlock.

The camera module on the back of the V10 is the same 16-megapixel shooter with OIS and laser autofocus as on the G4, with new software upgrades. Automatic mode has better focus,

exposure, ISO, and shutter speed selection, while an improved manual mode provides even more granular control. These manual controls are even available when shooting video now, plus there's also better video stabilization, which works in tandem with the phone's optical image stabilization.

On the front of the phone, you get two 5MP selfie cameras: one with an 80-degree field of view, and one designed for "wefies" with a wider 120-degree field of view.

The main display on the V10 is a 5.7-inch IPS LCD with a resolution of 2560 x 1440 (515ppi). It is ultra sharp with good brightness, but colors look a bit muted, and blacks, while deep, are naturally not as good as AMOLED.

Above the main display, you'll notice an always-on 2.1-inch secondary display that shows notifications and other system status messages. It's not incredibly

useful, but it does show the time when the main display is off, which is quite nice. The V10 is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 quad-core processor with 4GB of RAM. It's also one of the last flagship smartphones available with both a microSD card and a removable battery. Particularly noteworthy is that it supports cards up to a massive 2TB. Internally, you get 64GB of storage.

**+**  
**Excellent camera.**  
**Stainless steel construction.**  
**Removable battery.**

**–**  
**Underpowered processor.**

### AT A GLANCE

#### Operating System

Android 5.1.1 Lollipop

#### Display

5.7-inch LCD  
(2560 x 1440)

#### Processor

Qualcomm Snapdragon 808  
(Hexa-core)

#### Dimensions

159.6 x 79.3 x 8.6mm

#### Weight

192g

#### Price

Php 37,990



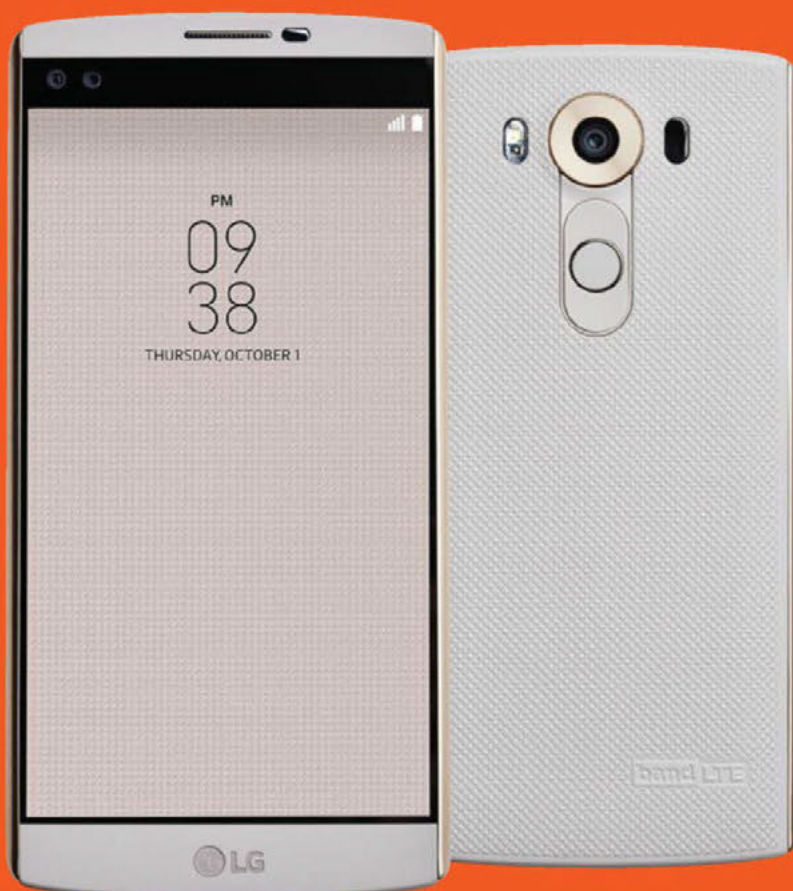
The rear power button on the LG V10 doubles as a fingerprint scanner that works reasonably well.



There's an always-on secondary screen above the main display that shows notifications.



The V10 has two front-facing cameras: one for selfies and another one for wefies.





## SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

The Samsung Galaxy Note 5 is cut from the same cloth as the smaller S6 we saw in March last year. It sports Gorilla Glass front and back, a strengthened metal frame, a 16MP optically stabilized rear camera and 5MP front camera, a fingerprint-sensing Home button, a heart-rate monitor at the flash area, support for two wireless charging standards, a super-fast Exynos octa-core processor, speedy UFS 2.0 storage, and 4GB LPDDR4 RAM. It is, however, much larger than the S6, with a 5.7-inch display.

Like the S6, the Note 5 neither has a removable battery nor expandable storage. Unfortunately, unlike the S6, there's no 128GB version available. The highest storage capacity is an underwhelming 64GB.

The Note 5 boasts a Super AMOLED panel with a whopping resolution of 2560 x 1440 (518ppi) in a 16:9 aspect ratio. Having said that, through side-by-side comparisons with just your eye, it's hard to see much, if any, difference between the Note 5 and the – on paper at least – inferior iPhone 6s Plus. You will, however, notice its flawless contrast, vivid colors, and deep blacks. The display is one of the brightest we've seen, even by Samsung standards.

Like previous Notes, the Note 5's standout

feature is its S Pen stylus, which now has a spring-loaded tip for easy ejection. New features this time around include Scroll Capture, which lets you screen-capture a long webpage, and then annotate it afterwards, PDF writing using both pen and finger, and Screen Off Memo, which lets you start writing on the screen the moment you eject the S Pen.

The rear camera has some new software

upgrades. Pro mode lets you save photos as RAW and manually adjust the shutter speed between 1/24000 and 10 seconds. Videos should also appear less shaky due to improved software-based video stabilization. Last but not the least, you can combine multiple videos (including slow-mo footage) into a video collage, and stream a Full HD live feed straight from the camera to YouTube. Add all these to the fast startup, high sensitivity, and class-leading image quality, and you've got one of the best camera

phones on the market today.

The Galaxy Note 5 is powered by Samsung's in-house Exynos 7420, an octa-core SoC fabricated using a 14nm process. Based on ARM's big.LITTLE config, it has four Cortex-A57 cores clocked at 2.1GHz and four Cortex-A53 cores at 1.5GHz. The GPU continues to be a Mali-T760 MP8.

**+ QHD Super AMOLED display. Useful S Pen features. Improved camera features. 4GB RAM.**

**– Storage capacity limited to just 64GB.**



### AT A GLANCE

#### Operating System

Android 5.1.1 Lollipop

#### Display

5.7-inch Super AMOLED (2560 x 1440)

#### Processor

Samsung Exynos 7420 (octa-core)

#### Dimensions

153.2 x 76.1 x 7.6mm

#### Weight

171g

#### Price

From PhP 36,990



The Note 5 has a 16MP, optically stabilized rear camera that's great at low-light shooting.



The Samsung Galaxy Note 5 has one of the best fingerprint scanners around.



The Note 5's S Pen is the most accurate and nicest-feeling stylus Samsung has designed to date.

## SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM

Sony's Xperia Z5 range consists of three models: the Z5 Compact (4.6-inch), the Z5 (5.2-inch), and the Z5 Premium (5.5-inch). An extra 0.3 inches isn't all that sets the Z5 Premium apart from its siblings, though. It also has a shinier finish, and amazingly, it comes with a UHD display.

Design-wise, the Z series has had only marginal changes over the years. The Z5 Premium's minimalist, boxy design features front and rear panels made of Gorilla Glass 4, plus a metal frame with plastic corners. Why the plastic? If you drop the phone, the plastic corners will absorb impact rather than directing pressure inwards (like metal), which would shatter the screen or rear glass. The Z5 Premium continues the waterproof tradition of its predecessors, with similar capless ports and IP68 rating of the Z3+.

A new addition on the Z5 Premium is a fingerprint scanner. Gone is Sony's signature round power button, and in its place is an oblong power button that doesn't look as stylish, but doubles up as a fast and accurate fingerprint scanner. Its position on the side lets you grab the phone out of your pocket and already have it unlocked by the time you're looking at the display.

The Z5 Premium main selling point is its display

with a resolution of 3840 x 2160. That's 806ppi, which, for a 5.5-inch phone, is quite honestly ridiculous. At this size, it's completely impossible to tell the difference between a QHD (or even Full HD) display and the Z5 Premium's UHD display. On top of which, most of your video content is likely to be Full HD resolution at best. While there are loads of 4K content on YouTube, the YouTube mobile app itself

only lets you select up to 1080p.

Even Sony's own video store only lets you buy Full HD movies for the Z5 Premium. Obviously, you can load your own 4K content, but a one-and-a-half-hour movie is going to eat around 100GB of storage.

Quality-wise, the Z5 Premium's display is pretty great. Blacks are deep, and colors are vivid and bright, although they're nowhere near as good as the Note 5 or Nexus 6P's AMOLED panels. As with other Xperia phones, white

balance is a bit on the cool side by default, but you can tweak this manually in the Settings menu.

The Sony Xperia Z5 Premium is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 octa-core processor with 3GB of RAM. It only has 32GB internal storage, but does come with a microSD slot that supports cards up to 200GB (for all that 4K content you'll want to load on your phone).



**UHD resolution. Well-positioned fingerprint scanner. IP68 water resistance.**



**UHD resolution. Aging design.**



### AT A GLANCE

#### Operating System

Android 5.1.1 Lollipop

#### Display

5.5-inch LCD  
(3840 x 2160)

#### Processor

Qualcomm Snapdragon 810  
v2.1 (Octa-core)

#### Dimensions

154.4 x 75.8 x 7.8mm

#### Weight

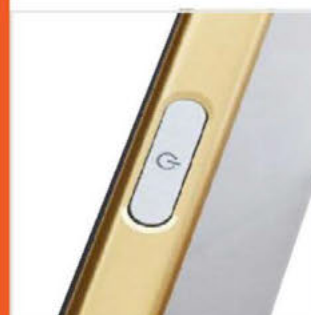
180g

#### Price

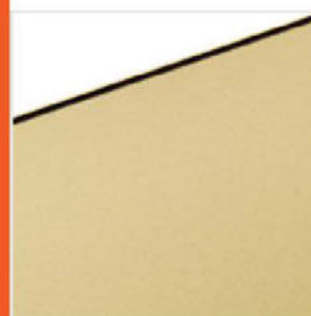
Php 40,990



The Z5 Premium has the highest-megapixel camera (23MP) in our shootout.



The power button on the side of the Xperia Z5 Premium has a fingerprint scanner, too.



The rear of the Z5 Premium has a shiny, mirror-like finish not seen on the Z5 or Z5 Compact.



## SunSpider JavaScript

(Lower is better)

SunSpider JavaScript measures the browsing performance of a device when processing JavaScript. It not only takes into consideration the underlying hardware performance, but also assesses how optimized a particular platform is at delivering a high-speed web browsing experience. Two phones did particularly well here, the Galaxy Note 5 and the Apple iPhone 6s Plus. The iPhone was the overall winner in this benchmark, thanks to Apple's great optimization between its hardware and software.

### APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS

222.3

### HUAWEI NEXUS 6P

602.1

### LG V10

842.6

### SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

348.8

### SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM

683.5

## Quadrant

(Higher is better)

Quadrant is an Android benchmark that evaluates a device's CPU, memory, I/O, and 3D graphics performances. As this is an Android benchmark, the Apple iPhone 6s Plus is not included. Samsung's in-house Exynos 7420 is the only non-Qualcomm processor in this benchmark, but still ran circles around the competition, with the Note 5 massively outscoring all of its Qualcomm-equipped rivals. The Snapdragon 808-equipped V10 lagged behind everyone else.

### HUAWEI NEXUS 6P

25,398

### LG V10

24,385

### SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

36,750

### SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM

28,676

## 3DMark (2013) - Ice Storm Unlimited

(Higher is better)

3DMark (2013) - Ice Storm is designed to test the gaming capabilities of a device, putting its GPU through a rigorous OpenGL ES 2.0 benchmark test that uses fixed off-screen rendering with high-quality textures and post-processing effects. The Unlimited version of the benchmark disables v-sync, display scaling, and other OS factors, making it ideal for chipset comparison.

This gaming benchmark was quite closely contested with the Apple A9, Exynos 7420, and Snapdragon 810 all performing well, with Apple's A9 leading the pack. Once again, the V10's Snapdragon 808 lagged quite far behind.

### APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS

27,514

### HUAWEI NEXUS 6P

25,891

### LG V10

19,541

### SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

24,794

### SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM

26,718

## Battery Life

(Higher is better)

Our standard battery test for mobile phones involves looping a 800 x 480-pixel video with screen brightness and volume at 100 percent, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity turned on, and constant data streaming through email and Twitter.

Both AMOLED-equipped smartphones (the Note 5 and Nexus 6P) were able to outlast the competition here, with the Nexus 6P running for 11 and a half hours and the Note 5 lasting just under 15 hours. By comparison, the phones with LCD displays didn't fare as well, and the Z5 Premium, in particular, suffered due to its ultra high-resolution UHD display, lasting just nine hours.

### APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS

674

### HUAWEI NEXUS 6P

704

### LG V10

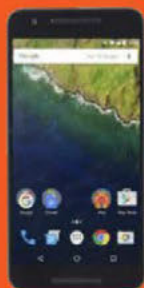
430

### SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

890

### SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM

546



MODEL	APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS	HUAWEI NEXUS 6P	LG V10	SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5	SONY XPERIA Z5 PREMIUM
OS	iOS 9	Android 6.0 Marshmallow	Android 5.1.1 Lollipop	Android 5.1.1 Lollipop	Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
DISPLAY	5.5-inch IPS LCD	5.7-inch AMOLED	5.7-inch IPS LCD	5.7-inch Super AMOLED	5.5-inch IPS LCD
RESOLUTION	1920 x 1080 (401ppi)	2560 x 1440 (518ppi)	2560 x 1440 (518ppi)	2560 x 1440 (518ppi)	3840 x 2160 (806ppi)
PROCESSOR	Apple A9 64-bit dual-core 1.8GHz processor	Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 v2.1 (quad-core 1.55GHz & quad-core 2.0GHz)	Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 (quad-core 1.44GHz & dual-core 1.82GHz)	Samsung Exynos 7420 octa-core (quad-core 1.5GHz & quad-core 2.1GHz)	Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 v2.1 (quad-core 1.55GHz & quad-core 2.0GHz)
RAM	2GB	3GB	4GB	4GB	3GB
REAR CAMERA	12MP with OIS	12.3MP	16MP with OIS	16MP with OIS	23MP
FRONT CAMERA	5MP	8MP	Dual 5MP	5MP	5.1MP
INTERNAL STORAGE	16/64/128GB	32/64/128GB	64GB	32/64GB	32GB
EXPANDABLE STORAGE	None	None	Up to 2TB	None	Up to 200GB
BATTERY	2750mAh	3450mAh	3000mAh	3000mAh	3430mAh
DIMENSIONS	158.2 x 77.9 x 7.3mm	159.3 x 77.8 x 7.3mm	159.6 x 79.3 x 8.6mm	153.2 x 76.1 x 7.6mm	154.4 x 75.8 x 7.8mm
WEIGHT	192g	178g	192g	171g	180g
PRICE	From PhP 43,990	From PhP 27,500	PhP 37,990	From PhP 36,990	PhP 40,990



# AND THE BEST FLAGSHIP SMARTPHONE IS...



## SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5

As mentioned at the start of this shootout, this category is extremely competitive. We can confidently recommend all of the phones, and each one has its merits.

If you're at the pool or beach a lot, or really like the idea of a UHD display, the Sony Xperia Z5 Premium with its IP68 build is ideal. For photographers and especially videographers, the LG V10's camera and software is one of the best combinations out there, and the amount of manual control it has is amazing. If you don't want to spend over PHP 30,000 and prefer a bloat-free experience, the Huawei Nexus 6P is the best Nexus phone ever. If you want a revolutionary feature in your next smartphone, Apple's 3D Touch display is easily the single best improvement to the touchscreen since it was invented.

There must be a winner, however, and the phone that stood out consistently was the Samsung Galaxy Note 5. While the rest have areas they're not great at (price, performance, battery life, etc.), the Note 5 is practically flawless. It boasts a gorgeous metal and glass build, has a powerful and, more importantly, power-efficient processor, has the best display with deep blacks and gorgeous colors, and its unique S Pen stylus is practical and easy to use. Unless you have specific usage needs, this is the best smartphone you can buy right now.









# POCKET POWER

Today's compact cameras have it tough. They have to constantly prove their everyday worth against the ubiquitous smartphone camera and stay just as easy to use. Different manufacturers have different features for their compact cameras to stand out, so we put them all through their paces to find the best.

**vs**

CANON POWERSHOT  
SX710 HS

•  
CASIO EXILIM EX-ZR3500

•  
NIKON COOLPIX S9900

•  
OLYMPUS STYLUS  
TOUGH TG-4

•  
PANASONIC LUMIX  
DMC-TZ70

•  
SONY CYBER-SHOT  
DSC-HX90V

Text by *Marcus Wong*

Photography by *Vee Chin + Cheryl Raharjo*

Art Direction by *Ken Koh*

## CANON POWERSHOT SX710 HS

The PowerShot SX710 HS could probably be considered the midrange superzoom in Canon's compact lineup for 2015, coming with a 20MP BSI CMOS sensor, an impressive 25 - 750mm zoom range (35mm equivalent), and Wi-Fi, plus NFC capabilities.

In terms of design, the PowerShot SX710 HS is virtually unchanged from the PowerShot SX700 HS, which may or may not be a good thing, depending on how much you liked the previous model. Grip support comes by way of faux leather covering over a small grip area, and, in a certain sense, the enlarged mode dial, which is knurled for better feel.

While we did have some misgivings about the dial being placed vertically (it seemed like the chances of accidentally shifting modes would be quite high), it seems like Canon has taken that into account quite well, implementing click stops that don't shift out too easily.

**+**  
**Decent feature set and performance at an affordable price.**

**-**  
**Only 1.1x zoom lens.**

We like that the camera also offers the very handy zoom framing assist mode that's also seen on the higher-end PowerShot G3 X. You simply press the button once, and it zooms out temporarily, allowing you to reframe the shot while keeping the button depressed. Release the button, and it zooms back in. What's nice, though, is that it also doubles as a subject tracking mode. You can have it identify face, body, or just the upper body, and the camera will adjust the lens zoom to keep that in frame if you press and release rather than hold it down.

Another thing to note is that pressing either the phone button or the preview button will turn on the camera and automatically put it in the respective mode. It's a bit of an underrated shortcut, but one that could save you some time if you just wanted to show off a picture to someone next to you.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Sensor

1/2.3-inch BSI CMOS

#### Resolution

20.3-megapixel

#### Focal length

25 - 750mm (35mm equivalent)

#### Weight (Inc. batteries)

Approx. 269g

#### Price

PHP 17,998



The movie record button can be difficult to reach.



The vertically oriented mode dial is pretty handy in practice.



There's a pop-up flash if you need extra light in a pinch.



## CASIO EXILIM EX-ZR3500

The EX-ZR3500 is Casio's flagship in its travel series compacts, and has a 25 - 300mm (35mm equivalent) zoom reach that can be doubled with its Multi SR Zoom function, which samples multiple areas from the image to do real-time interpolation, thus, creating a better final image than what most digital zooms are able to achieve.

The Casio Exilim EX-ZR3500 is powered by a 12.1-megapixel 1/1.7-inch back-illuminated CMOS sensor, and features Casio's HS anti-shake feature, which corrects for shake in five axes, leading to better images and videos. In fact, Casio touts the EX-ZR3500 as having the best image quality of the entire travel series to date, capable of giving images that show "each and every strand of hair," so there certainly is a fair bit of expectation in terms of image quality.

The EX-ZR3500 features a quick access menu that you

can get to easily by pressing down on the main dial pad. This runs as an extension of the physical control dial on the camera, so selection of options involves rotating the control dial, pressing right to select the function, rotating the dial again to get your setting, then pressing the set button to save it. That may seem a handful, but it works pretty well in practice, as the menu system was one of the easiest to go through.

Of course, with any Casio camera, make-up mode and selfies are always going to be main features, and the EX-ZR3500 is no different. There's a dedicated front shutter, and the camera automatically switches to selfie mode once you flip the LCD up, even if the camera is off. The strength of skin tone and skin smoothing adjustments applied can

easily be adjusted via sliders, so men can darken their skin and yet, get some light skin smoothing, too.

**+**  
**Great set of features for all levels.**

**-**  
**A little bulky compared to the others.**

### AT A GLANCE

#### Sensor

1/1.7-inch HS BSI CMOS

#### Resolution

12.1-megapixel

#### Dimensions

25 - 300mm (35mm equivalent)

#### Weight (Inc. batteries)

Approx. 248g

#### Price

S\$ 579 (Approx. PHP 19,000)



There's a handy control dial over the lens.



The LCD tilts a full 180 degrees for better flexibility.



Sadly, the flash of this camera doesn't raise up.

## NIKON COOLPIX S9900

Nikon brands the COOLPIX S9900 as “the ultimate in pocket-size versatility,” and they might not actually be far off in this case. The camera features a swiveling LCD, built-in Wi-Fi with NFC support, and even incorporates built-in onboard GPS with POI technology, so you can automatically log the longitude and latitude of every shot you take.

There’s also a 5-axis Hybrid VR system that uses a combination of lens shifting and electronic VR for more stable images, especially on the long range of the zoom. That’s certainly important, as the camera body is extremely small, given it goes all the way out to a 750mm equivalent zoom while not offering you that much to hold on to.

With that being said, we do like that the camera remains relatively slim and light. We also found the flip-out rear LCD display to be certainly the most versatile of all the other cameras, allowing you to

shoot from virtually any angle. Nikon says it uses a RGBW alignment for the LCD screen with an added anti-reflection coating to ensure clear visibility of the images, and in our testing, it certainly seemed to work. The LCD was always clearly visible without needing much brightness or contrast adjustments.

We must say we have a bit of a love-and-hate-relationship with the Nikon COOLPIX S9900’s menu system. On one hand, the COOLPIX S9900 is smart enough to remember where you are in the menu, so you don’t have to start from the top each time you need to adjust the same setting. Somehow, though, it always resets the drive mode to single shot after you put it on timer mode. That means you’ll be diving through the same menus over and over again if you’re taking a series of shots that require the use of a timer, and it actually gets frustrating, to say the least.

**+**  
**Vari-angle LCD allows for greater usability.**

**–**  
**Self-timer doesn’t remember settings.**

### AT A GLANCE

#### Sensor

1/2.3-inch CMOS

#### Resolution

16.0-megapixel

#### Focal length

25 - 750mm  
(35mm equivalent)

#### Weight (Inc. batteries)

Approx. 289g

#### Price

US\$ 350 (Approx.  
PHP 16,400)



TAP FOR

WEBSITE



The dials are nicely knurled for you to get a better feel.



The pop-up flash of this camera comes up fairly high.



The vari-angle LCD lets you use this from any angle.



## OLYMPUS STYLUS TOUGH TG-4

The Tough TG-4 is the only camera in this roundup that's not only weather-sealed, but able to take freezing sub-zero temperatures to -10 degrees Celsius, crushproof to 100kgf, and waterproof to 15m. In short, it's well capable of following you on a dive trip, a trip to the Antarctic, or even a trek in the Sahara.

Perhaps, as a result of this, the body of this Olympus camera is more ruggedly designed than the rest, and even the zoom levers have been built to accommodate use by gloved fingers. In practice, this translated to just a touch more damping on the controls as compared to the others.

The camera features GPS capabilities that are faster than the previous version, being able to acquire a signal in less than ten seconds, which makes geotagging pictures less of a hassle. Complementary to this is the integrated e-compass that gives you readings like direction, longitude, latitude,

altitude, and barometric pressure at a press of a button. All that means is that you could potentially use the camera to navigate your way home, which can definitely come in handy when you're overseas.



**Built for every condition.**



**Image quality isn't as good as the others.**

Tap control is another handy feature, as it allows you to call up different functions, like image playback, just by tapping the sides of the camera, which helps when you can't easily reach the buttons – like when you're managing your buoyancy underwater for instance. So, it's certainly great for the rugged traveler, but add to that a highly impressive Super Macro function (that gets you up to just 1cm for extreme close-up shots), a high speed movie function with capture rates of 120fps or 240fps, and a super resolution zoom

feature (that boosts the optical zoom to twice the range with minimal image quality loss), and you have a great camera for capturing stills and video, overall.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Sensor

1/2.3-inch CMOS

#### Resolution

16.0-megapixel

#### Focal length

25 - 100mm  
(35mm equivalent)

#### Weight (Inc. batteries)

Approx. 247g

#### Price

US\$ 379 (Approx.  
Php 17,800)



TAP FOR  
WEBSITE



The zoom lever on this Olympus camera is a little small.



The mode dial has deep ridges for you to get a better feel.



The flash is also fixed and fairly near to the lens.

## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-TZ70

The Lumix DMC-TZ70 is billed as the “ultimate travel camera for every destination,” and actually features a sensor with a lower resolution count than its predecessor, the DMC-TZ60, which boasts a 18.1-megapixel MOS sensor. This lowered pixel count should make for improved low-light performance, and indeed, the DMC-TZ70 was one of the better performers at ISO 6400.

The camera features slight design changes from its predecessor, with a larger handgrip in the front and a flatter profile. It's also slightly taller and wider at 110.7 x 64.6 x 34.4mm (compared to the 110.6 x 64.3 x 34.4mm of the DMC-TZ60), but, otherwise, everything remains essentially unchanged, save for a slight shift of the Live View function key to the center.

That's actually now a programmable function button, giving you two buttons with which you can assign custom functions to in addition to the four main

quick access buttons on the directional pad. There is no quick menu function on the DMC-TZ70, though, so you will probably find yourself diving into the full menu fairly often.

The menu is divided into four sections – Rec, Motion Picture, Setup, and Wi-Fi – and this actually adds a bit more hassle to something as simple as changing the White Balance or your drive modes.

What's nice is the control ring over the lens, as it's certainly a good size to allow for precise adjustments, like when you're doing manual focus for extreme close-ups. Another small touch we also liked was how the camera displays the entire zoom range for each stop when you adjust the lever. You can tell immediately the minimum focus distance of the camera for the particular zoom length

it's set at, which can, at times, help explain why the camera can't get focus or go too close to the subject.

**+**  
**Control ring adds a good tactile feel to the camera.**

**–**  
**No quick menu means you'll have to do more menu diving.**

### AT A GLANCE

**Sensor**  
1/2.3-inch High Sensitivity MOS

**Resolution**  
12.1-megapixel

**Focal length**  
24 - 720mm  
(35mm equivalent)

**Weight (Inc. batteries)**  
Approx. 243g

**Price**  
US\$ 399 (Approx.  
Php 18,700)



TAP FOR  
WEBSITE



The movie recording button is raised up just enough.



Four quick options allow quick changes of settings.



The ridged handgrip gives you just enough to hang on.



## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-HX90V

The smallest of the group, measuring just 102.0 x 58.1 x 35.4mm, the DSC-HX90V is certainly extremely portable, but you'll never complain about a lack for features, as Sony has somehow found a way to still pack in a 30x optical zoom lens, an electronic viewfinder, and a pop-up flash into the tiny body.

While it shares the same zoom range as the DSC-HX60V from last year, the camera actually gets a bit of a lens upgrade, as it sports Zeiss optics this time. The new Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T\* lens has a maximum aperture of f/3.5 at the wide end and f/6.4 at the long end, and covers a 35mm equivalent range of 24 - 720mm.

The camera also gets Sony's Bionz X processor and a back-illuminated sensor that has a slightly lowered resolution (18.2 megapixels as opposed to 20.4 megapixels) for a bigger pixel pitch. Together, these should lead to better performance at

higher ISOs.

The pop-up viewfinder is very reminiscent to the one found on the higher-end RX100 IV, and we must say it's probably the best we've seen on a compact camera so far. Like the one on the RX100 IV, the OLED viewfinder sinks into the camera body and pops up at a flick of a switch. It's clear and bright, and you get a live image review of your settings, making it extremely handy for judging exposure.

Also improved is the rear 3-inch TFT LCD on the camera. This now flips up a full 180 degrees, so you can easily do selfies or take pictures with the camera at low angles. Of course, the camera sports Wi-Fi with NFC capabilities for easy picture sharing, and GPS geotagging capabilities that can be used with the Sony PlayMemories Home software on your computer to display a path and images of your journey on a trail map.



**OLED viewfinder is a great addition for a compact camera.**



**Images captured tend to have a cyan bias.**

### AT A GLANCE

#### Sensor

1/2.3-inch  
Exmor R CMOS

#### Resolution

18.2-megapixel

#### Focal length

24 - 720mm  
(35mm equivalent)

#### Weight

245g

#### Price

US\$ 430 (Approx.  
Php 20,200)



TAP FOR

WEBSITE



A switch by the side of the camera releases the EVF.



The DSC-HX90V comes with integrated GPS.



The pop-up flash barely rises up above this Sony camera.



## CANON POWERSHOT SX710 HS

The PowerShot SX710 HS turns in good results in most conditions. There's in-camera lens shift stabilization and a Hybrid Auto mode that automatically captures a four-second movie before each shot and combines the stills and video into a montage, which is handy for parties or outings where you can't quite predict the action. The autofocus isn't the fastest of the group, but it is fairly accurate and it goes down to a focusing distance of just 1cm in macro, making it one of the more versatile cameras in the lineup. One thing we did like was how the AF Frame enlarges to show you exactly what is being focused on in center AF Frame mode, which sort of acts as confirmation before the shot. Images, however, tend to have a bit of a cyan bias, especially when indoors.



Images from the PowerShot SX710 HS tend to have a bit too much cyan.



Detail is still held up decently well at ISO 1600.



## CASIO EXILIM EX-ZR3500

The EX-ZR3500 had one of the faster autofocus systems of the group, constantly picking out focus points quickly, and more importantly, accurately. We do think that it also has the best color balance of the group, and the best sense of exposure when left in program mode. Hardly any correction is needed with the shots, and there is generally good detail in the images. The 5-axis image stabilization also offers a choice of two settings: normal and strong. We had it set to strong when we were testing the extents of the lens, and found that the image stabilization generally worked well, with minimal blurring. We were also pleasantly surprised to find that images captured had every bit as much detail as some of the other cameras with higher resolution numbers in the group.



The EX-ZR3500 turns in images with good detail and nice contrast.

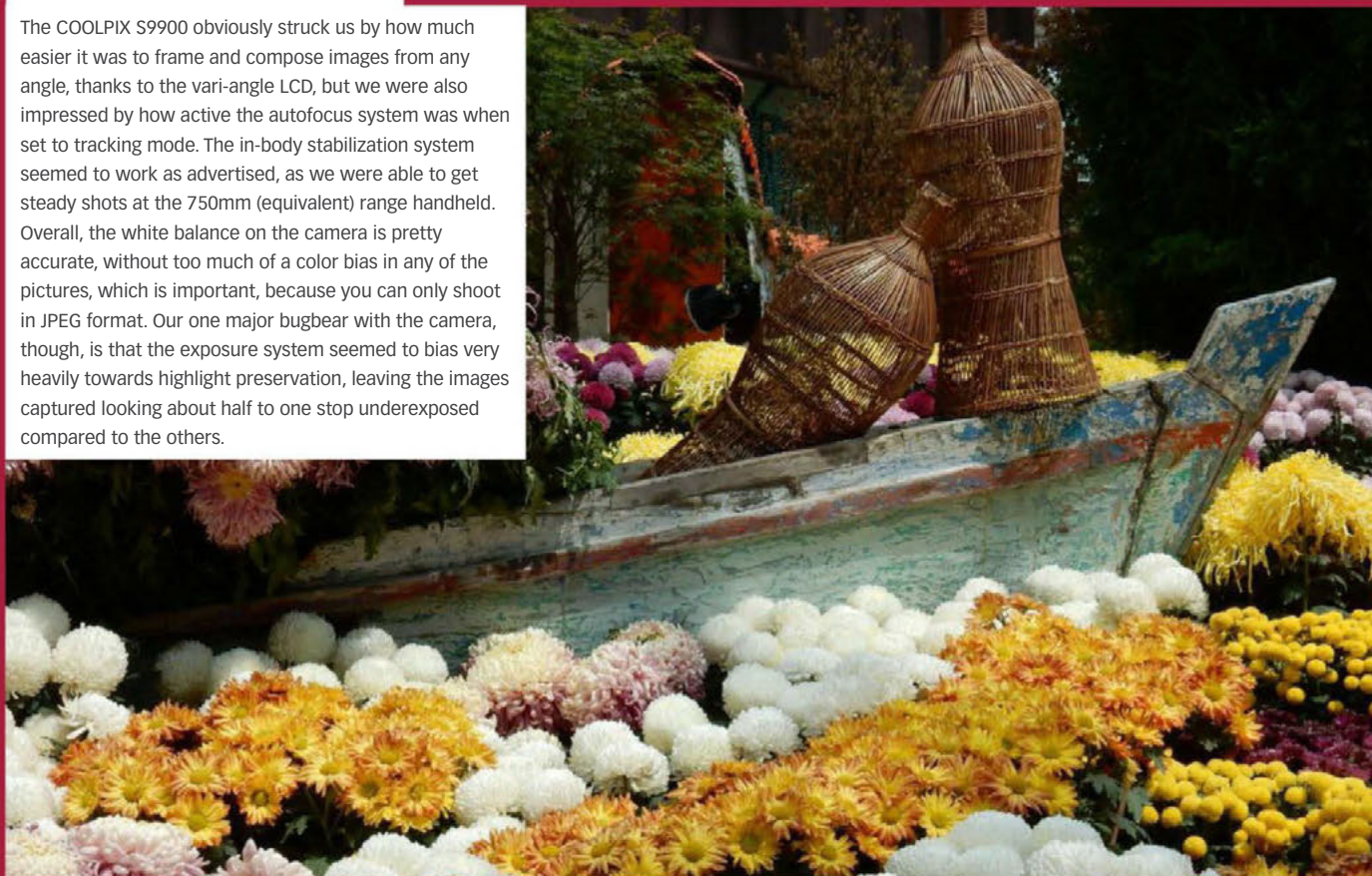


The writing on the label can still just about be made out at ISO 1600.

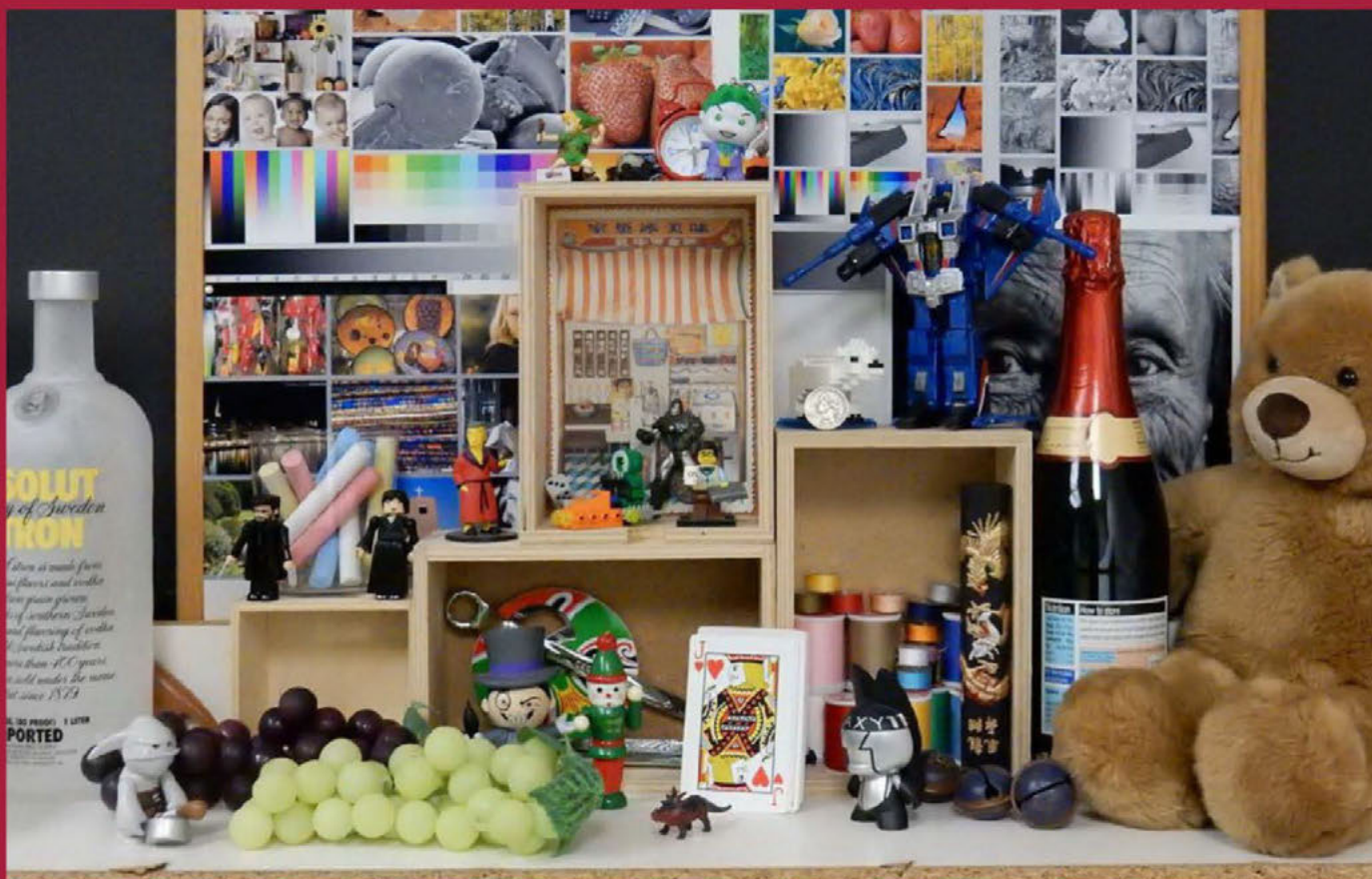


## NIKON COOLPIX S9900

The COOLPIX S9900 obviously struck us by how much easier it was to frame and compose images from any angle, thanks to the vari-angle LCD, but we were also impressed by how active the autofocus system was when set to tracking mode. The in-body stabilization system seemed to work as advertised, as we were able to get steady shots at the 750mm (equivalent) range handheld. Overall, the white balance on the camera is pretty accurate, without too much of a color bias in any of the pictures, which is important, because you can only shoot in JPEG format. Our one major bugbear with the camera, though, is that the exposure system seemed to bias very heavily towards highlight preservation, leaving the images captured looking about half to one stop underexposed compared to the others.



The Coolpix S9900 seems to turn in darker images than the others.

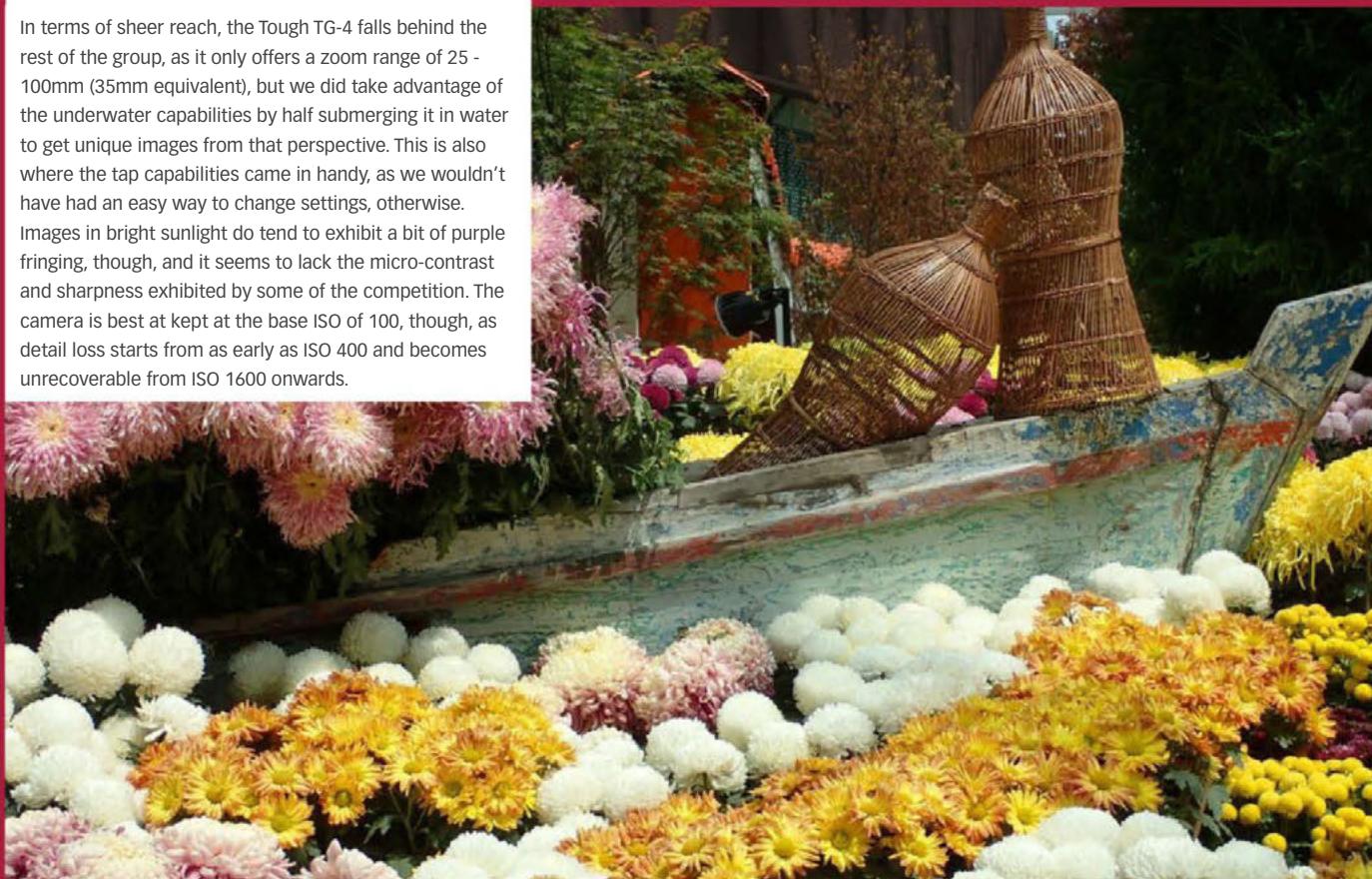


There's a little bit of color noise at ISO 1600.



## OLYMPUS STYLUS TOUGH TG-4

In terms of sheer reach, the Tough TG-4 falls behind the rest of the group, as it only offers a zoom range of 25 - 100mm (35mm equivalent), but we did take advantage of the underwater capabilities by half submerging it in water to get unique images from that perspective. This is also where the tap capabilities came in handy, as we wouldn't have had an easy way to change settings, otherwise. Images in bright sunlight do tend to exhibit a bit of purple fringing, though, and it seems to lack the micro-contrast and sharpness exhibited by some of the competition. The camera is best at kept at the base ISO of 100, though, as detail loss starts from as early as ISO 400 and becomes unrecoverable from ISO 1600 onwards.



Images from the Tough TG-4 have slightly less detail compared to the others.



At ISO 1600, fine detail turns to mush.



## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-TZ70

The DMC-TZ70 impressed us with how well it handled, and how quickly the camera obtained focus. The lens action on zooming was also very swift, and we do like how there's an option to set it to stepped zooming, meaning the zoom stops on fixed focal lengths that correspond to the focal lengths of most commonly used lenses. When you zoom in to look at the out-of-focus areas, it appears that the DMC-TZ70 holds slightly more detail than the rest, and our experience with the camera also shows that it's quite a bit better at dealing with flaring, too. Where it seems to suffer a bit, though, is in the shadow areas, as we found it doesn't hold detail quite as well as something like the Casio Exilim EX-ZR3500.



Highlights are very well handled by the DMC-TZ70.

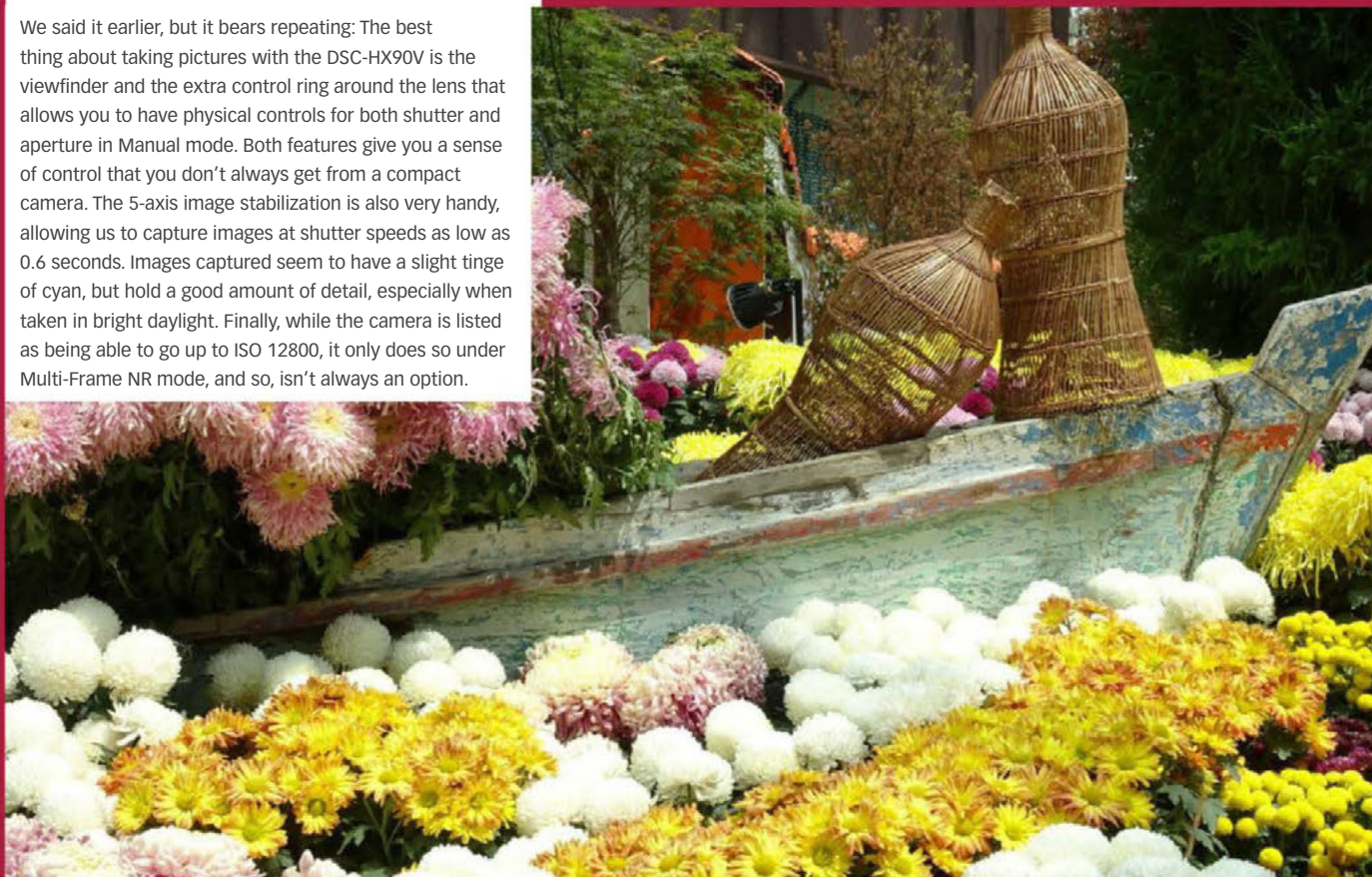


You should stick to ISO 800 and below for this camera, if you want to retain fine detail.



## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-HX90V

We said it earlier, but it bears repeating: The best thing about taking pictures with the DSC-HX90V is the viewfinder and the extra control ring around the lens that allows you to have physical controls for both shutter and aperture in Manual mode. Both features give you a sense of control that you don't always get from a compact camera. The 5-axis image stabilization is also very handy, allowing us to capture images at shutter speeds as low as 0.6 seconds. Images captured seem to have a slight tinge of cyan, but hold a good amount of detail, especially when taken in bright daylight. Finally, while the camera is listed as being able to go up to ISO 12800, it only does so under Multi-Frame NR mode, and so, isn't always an option.



The DSC-HX90V can have a tendency to blow out highlights – look at the white lilies.



Images at ISO 1600 can probably be used after a bit of sharpening.

# T E S T - SPECIFICATIONS



MODEL	CANON POWERSHOT SX710 HS	CASIO EXILIM EX-ZR3500	NIKON COOLPIX S9900	OLYMPUS STYLUS TOUGH TG-4	PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-TZ70	SONY CYBER- SHOT DSC- HX90V
SENSOR SIZE	1/2.3" BSI CMOS	1/1.7" HS BSI CMOS	1/2.3" CMOS	1/2.3" CMOS	1/2.3" High Sensitivity MOS	1/2.3" Exmor R CMOS
EFFECTIVE PIXELS	20.3- megapixel	12.1- megapixel	16.0- megapixel	16.0- megapixel	12.1- megapixel	18.2- megapixel
ISO SENSITIVITY	80 - 1600	80 - 6400, (25600 with HS Night Shot)	125 - 6400	100 - 6400	80 - 6400	80 - 3200 (12800 with Multi Frame NR)
FOCAL LENGTH (35MM EQUIVALENT)	25 - 750mm	25 - 300mm	25 - 750 mm	25 - 100mm	24 - 720mm	24 - 720mm
MAX APERTURE	f/3.2 (w) - f/6.9 (t)	f/2.8 (w) - f/6.3 (t)	f/3.7 (w) - f/6.4 (t)	f/2.0 (w) - f/4.9 (t)	f/3.3 (w) - f/6.4 (t)	f/3.5 (w) - f/6.4 (t)
MAXIMUM SHUTTER SPEED	1/3200s	1/1600s, (1/20000s - HS mode)	1/2000	1/2000	1/2000	1/2000
MAX CONTINUOUS FRAME RATE	Approx. 6.0fps	Approx. 30.0fps	Approx. 7.0fps	Approx. 5.0fps	Approx. 10.0fps	Approx. 10.0fps
MAX MOVIE RESOLUTION	1920 x 1080	1920 x 1080	1920 x 1080	1920 x 1080	1920 x 1080	1920 x 1080
WI-FI	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
VIEWFINDER	No	No	No	No	Yes (0.20" Live View Finder, 1166K dots)	Yes (0.20" OLED Live View Finder)
MONITOR	3.0" type, approx. 922k dots	3.0" TFT LCD with tilt, approx. 922k dots	3.0" vari-angle TFT LCD, approx. 921k dots	3.0" LCD, approx. 460K dots	3.0" TFT LCD, approx. 1,040K dots	3.0" TFT LCD, approx. 922k dots
SIZE	112.7 x 65.8 x 34.8mm	108.3 x 61.5 x 36.7mm	112.0 x 66.0 x 39.5mm	111.5 x 65.9 x 31.2mm	110.7 x 64.6 x 34.4mm	102.0 x 58.1 x 35.4mm
BATTERY LIFE (CIPA STANDARD)	Approx. 230 shots	Approx. 430 shots	Approx. 300 shots	Approx. 380 shots	Approx. 300 shots	Approx. 390 shots
WEIGHT (INCL BATTERIES AND CARD)	Approx. 269g	Approx. 248g	Approx. 289g	Approx. 247g	Approx. 243g	245g
PRICE	PhP 17,998	S\$ 579 (Approx. PhP 19,000)	US\$ 350 (Approx. PhP 16,400)	US\$ 379 (Approx. PhP 17,800)	US\$ 399 (Approx. PhP 18,700)	US\$ 430 (Approx. PhP 20,200)



# AND THE BEST TRAVEL COMPACT CAMERAS ARE...



## CASIO EXILIM EX-ZR3500

This was honestly a little surprising to us, given that the EX-ZR3500 didn't quite have the highest-resolution sensor of the shootout. In terms of consistency of exposure and the accuracy of the automatic white balance systems, though, the EX-ZR3500 was easily one of the best. Images from the camera also constantly came in with the most detail captured, and the camera was also one of the best in low light. Both points, we think, can probably be attributed to the slightly larger 1/1.7" sensor, as well as the choice made to stick to a sensible level of 12 megapixels, given the smaller sensor. Other plus points are the relatively easy-to-use interface and the full range of shooting modes available, which are especially important for compact cameras, as they have to appeal to users of all levels.

## NIKON COOLPIX S9900

We mentioned how impressed we were with the Nikon COOLPIX S9900's suite of features. Swiveling LCD, built-in Wi-Fi with NFC support, and GPS with POI technology – all these add up to a very feature-filled offering at a fairly low price compared to the others. You'll probably have to work with the camera for a while to decide how much compensation to dial in to get exposures consistent to what you prefer, and the menu system definitely can do with an improvement, but none of that should detract from the fact that the COOLPIX S9900 remains a very capable camera at a good price.





FEATURE

# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

## Tech-powered New Year Resolutions

The start of a new year is the perfect time to get your life in check. However, we know how easy it is to make resolutions and how hard it is to keep them. Regardless of whether you want to be a better lover or learner, these tech-fueled solutions will be that ace you need for a brand-spanking new you!

Text by **Team HWM** Art Direction + Illustrations **Ian Chong**







# STAY HEALTHY, SO THAT YOU CAN LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

First tip: There are no shortcuts.

By Ng Chong Seng

Health is important to us, both at home and at the workplace. Personally, I want to stay healthy so that I can keep up with my kids at the park, be able to stay energetic for the household chores, and have enough physical and mental strength to finish a project deadline at work.

Sure, average life expectancy is on the up, but are you free of sickness, pain, and stress? As someone who successfully did a lifestyle change in 2015, here are my tips to you for the new year.

## First, know your risks

While there's no definite answer to what exactly is the "best" weight for a person, knowing your BMI is one way to get to a ballpark figure.

Short for Body Mass Index, this is a weight-to-height index calculated using your weight (in kilograms) divided by the square of your height (in meters). If you get anywhere between 18.5 and 25, you're mostly golden. Watch your weight if you're between 25 and 30; and if you've crossed 30, it's good to shed some pounds to reduce the chances of obesity-related health conditions, particularly heart diseases.

Also, if you haven't been doing regular health check-ups, I suggest that you do. Regular health exams can identify problems before they start or get worse. Do it even if you think you're in the pink of health. I know of people who have diabetes, and they aren't even close to being overweight. They could turn it around if they knew about their condition at the pre-diabetic stage.



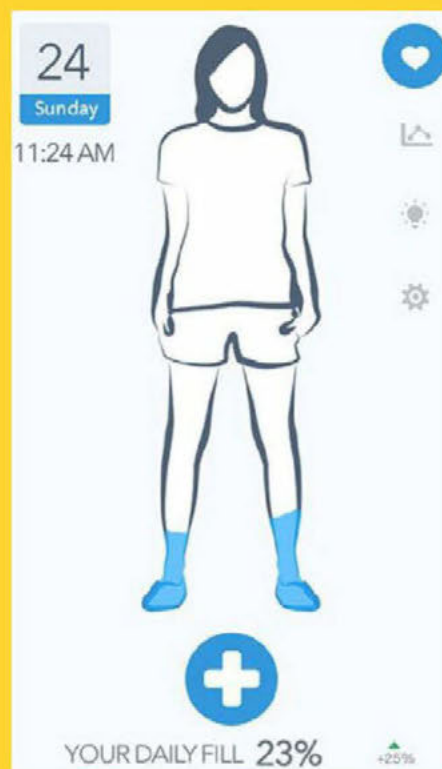
**THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO LOSING WEIGHT: EATING AND EXERCISING PROPERLY AND CONSISTENTLY IS THE ONLY METHOD.**

## Eat right, not don't eat

A major cause of poor health conditions is our unhealthy lifestyles, in which the diet plays a crucial role. Needless to say, what we eat and how much we eat directly affect our body weight.

My advice on losing weight is simple: Watch what you eat. Staying in the ideal weight range is a life-long effort; can you starve yourself forever? Not to mention the side effects of starving, like dizziness and lack of energy. When the measures are too drastic, we tend to give up more easily. If you're unsure whether you're getting the right amounts of carbs, fats, and proteins daily, you can try calorie-counting and diet-tracking apps like Lose It!, MyFitnessPal, and Lifesum for a start.

Cutting back on sugared drinks worked wonders for me, and is one that I think will work for most people trying to lose weight. I seriously can't remember the last time I bought Coke from a vending machine.



Don't forget to drink plenty of water, too. This is the WaterMinder app for iOS.



## Get your butt off that chair

Like a diet, when it comes to exercise, the keyword here is “proper.” In short, don’t go sign up for a half marathon if you’ve never run regularly. For a start, simply aim to move more: walk home from the interchange instead of taking the bus; climb the stairs instead of taking the lift; or just chase after your kids in the park instead of relaxing in one corner to check Facebook.

If you need motivation from inanimate objects, try fitness trackers like those from Fitbit and Jawbone, or the Apple Watch if you also need a stylish timepiece – whichever rocks your boat.

If you’re so busy at work and have no time to even go for walks, much less hit the gym, you can try short but high-intensity seven-minute workouts. Consisting of a list of 12 exercises that use only your body weight, a chair, and a wall, a single workout only takes seven minutes. Personally, I use this iOS app called 7 Minute Workout Challenge.



Seven-minute workouts are popular because they allow busy people to workout anywhere and anytime.



## Get a weighing scale

So, you went on a diet and signed up for a gym program, but are these measures effective in helping you lose weight? Perhaps you think you’ve slimmed down, based on what you saw in the mirror this morning, but can you be sure?

Nothing beats a bathroom scale in reaffirming the efforts you’ve put in. Versus a traditional scale, a smart digital scale like the Fitbit Aria or the Withings Smart Body Analyzer usually has the added benefits of syncing with compatible apps or services for easier progress tracking.

That said, don’t live by the scale. It’s all too easy to pat yourself on the back and indulge in some fried chicken after you’ve seen that you’ve lost a bit of weight, or start to skip more meals at the detriment of your health when the numbers went up. In fact, my recommendation is to use the scale to help you get to the healthy weight range, and then toss it out. Then get a pair of jeans that fits you just right, so that when the jeans get tighter, you’ll intuitively know what’s wrong.

## It’s all on you

Setting a realistic target and sticking to the plan is important. No fancy calorie-tracking app, smartwatch, weighing scale, or gym instructor can help you if you are unwilling to make a lifestyle change or raise the white flag the instance the going gets tough. Not willing to give up that weekly buffet habit even though you notice you can’t walk for five minutes without panting? It’s time to take stock of your priorities.

Recognize, too, that staying fit and healthy is for your own good; not because I said so, or because you want to look good in other people’s eyes. If anything, it should be for the people you love, such as being able to live long and healthy to see your kids grow up.

Finally, there are no shortcuts to losing weight. Eating and exercising properly and consistently is the only method. And unless you have an underlying medical condition, it’s also the only sure-fire method.



# HOW TO BOOST YOUR PRODUCTIVITY IN 2016

Get more done in less time, but it's not all about work.

By Alvin Soon

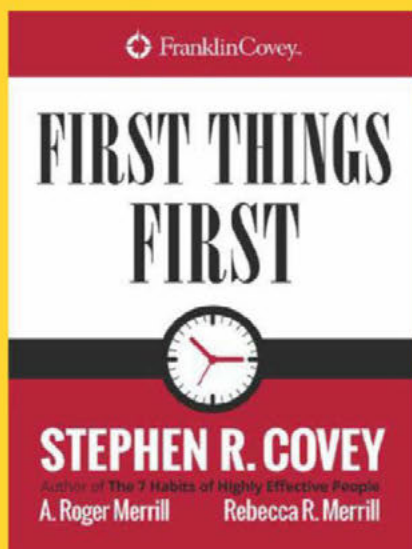
Who doesn't want to get more done, in less time? If we could do that, we think we'd be happier, less stressed, and have more time to do X (spend time with family, exercise, or fill in your own blank). But the truth is that we'll always be wrestling with what to spend our limited time on, no matter how much time we do or don't have.

In these two pages, I invite you to think of productivity as not just something you get out of work, but across your entire life. Because being productive isn't about being efficient (i.e., getting stuff done), but about being effective (i.e., getting the right stuff done).

## Get educated about how to manage your time

Nobody fights a war by rushing into the field without a plan. Similarly, before you get into the tactics of productivity, you need an overarching strategy that's informed by a conscious purpose. What do you want to achieve with your time, and why? No doubt, you'll need to put in some brainpower and soul-searching up front. But doing the plan before you do the work pays off.

The classic book on time management is Stephen Covey's *First Things First*, which teaches you how to put the important ahead of the urgent, and how to tell the difference between the two.



## Invest in systems

Your brain is a very poor task manager. The simple reason for that is it has evolved for very short-term goals, when our ancestors were lucky to live beyond their 20s on the Savannah.

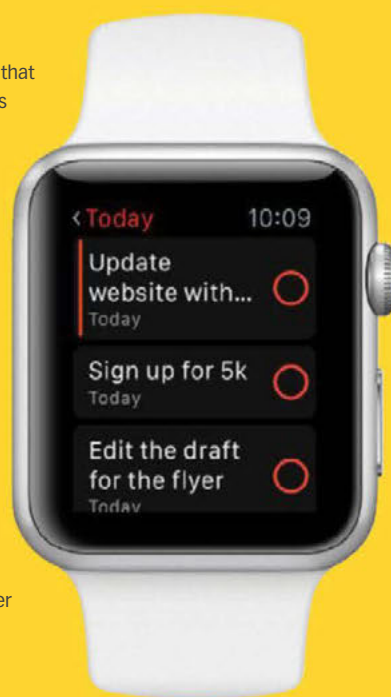
And when stress hits the fan, it gets flooded with adrenalin and all sorts of nice chemicals that are great for fighting off tigers, but bad at submitting forms.

So, you want to manage your time better? Don't rely on yourself making great decisions when it's minutes before deadline, you haven't slept all night, and the baby is sick. Plan your tasks ahead, using a trusted productivity system.

It doesn't really matter which productivity app you use, it matters more that you actually use one. Use a notebook and pen if you must. For more high-tech solutions, try apps like Todoist, Wunderlist, or Asana.

When it comes time to up your task management game, the Holy Grail for geeky productivity systems is David Allen's *Getting Things Done*, or the GTD system.

Most productivity apps made today follow his principles in some way or another (they're made by geeks, after all). After reading the book, the seriously hardcore among you can try Things (iOS, OS X) or OmniFocus (iOS, OS X).



**HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY KNOW THAT ALL YOUR PRODUCTIVITY TIPS AND TRICKS ARE WORKING, AND THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY SPENDING TIME ON WHAT YOU SAY IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?**



## Cut off the interruptions

You can actually get more done today in the same amount of time with one simple life-hack: cut off all interruptions when you're doing your work. Easier said than done, I know.

Research has found that multitasking actually makes us less productive. Our brains can't multitask; what it actually does is rapidly toggle between tasks, rather than process them all simultaneously. The fancy word for this is "continuous partial attention." When people do multiple things at once, they perform more slowly and less accurately than if they focused on a single task at a time.

Continuous interruptions are as good as continuous partial attention. When you're interrupted, whether by a colleague dropping in at your desk, or by you checking Facebook for "just a minute," your focus is broken from the task at hand. There's no app to help you lock your office door, but there are other ways to kick out interruptions. In real life, you can go somewhere secluded to do your work (if you have the luxury). If you can't escape your desk, try a pair of noise-cancelling ear buds that block sound out, like the Bose QuietComfort 20.

To block off all online distractions, try the Freedom app. It lets you block Internet connections for a period that you choose, so you can't even go online to watch cat videos when you're supposed to focus.



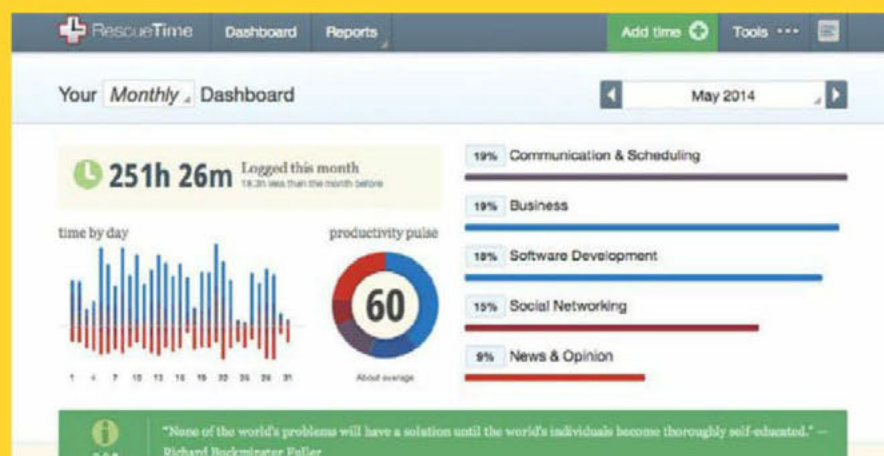
## Get real with how you're spending your time

How do you actually know that all your productivity tips and tricks are working, and that you're actually spending time on what you say is important to you?

You can get real by actually tracking how you really spend your days. One way to do this is by using your smartphone's built-in Calendar app, and tracking what you do with your schedule, then reviewing it at the end of the week.

Pro-tip: Use Google Calendar as your core Calendar app, and sync everything to that, so you can see everything synced up on any platform.

You can also track how you're spending time on your computer with the RescueTime app, so you'll get reports on how much time you're really surfing Facebook versus being on your Excel sheet. The paid version lets you log what you do in real time, so you get a bigger picture of how you spend your time.



## Batch your work

The complementary tactic for cutting off interruptions is to work in batches. Research has shown that separating the day into blocks of time devoted to specific tasks can help people become more productive.

On the desktop, you can use timers to set aside a block of time to work on something. Try setting it anywhere from 25 to 60 minutes. Different people have different lengths of peak focus time, after which forcing yourself to continue actually results in shoddier work. When the timer rings, give yourself a 10- to 20-minute break, then start the timer again for the next block of work.

This can work not only in your office, but it can pay off in your personal life, as well. Imagine when you've consciously decided that in the next one-hour block of time, you're not going to do anything but play with your kids.

No interruptions allowed, including checking your phone. You'll probably play happier.



# BE A BETTER YOU

It's time to upgrade yourself to version 2.0.

By James Lu

Every year, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg sets himself an annual challenge of self-improvement. In 2010, he learned Mandarin. In 2011, he vowed to eat only animals he had killed himself. Last year, he set himself the goal of reading a new book every week. Take inspiration from Zuckerberg and change your life for the better. Like they say, change starts from within.

## Learn a new language

It might sound like an impossible task, but according to language experts, you can learn communication skills in weeks and master the basics of a foreign language in just a few months. While you might not reach the fluency that allows you to understand great foreign literature classics, you can still quickly master conversational skills that will meet most people's needs for work or tourism.

It's been proven that the fastest way to learn a new language is to just immerse yourself completely in the culture. But if you can't take a few months off to go live overseas, there are some other options that will help. Consume as much media in your chosen language as you can: read foreign language books and watch foreign language TV shows without the subtitles on. If you're just starting out, read illustrated children's books or watch familiar films so you know what's going on. One of the best ways to improve your skills is to regularly converse with native speakers, without resorting to English when you have trouble communicating. If you're having trouble finding people that speak your language locally, check out [italki.com](http://italki.com), a language social network that connects native speakers and teachers with students.

Your smartphone can help, too. Language apps like Duolingo, which uses a game-style system where users receive experience points for every correct answer, can make language learning more accessible and fun. Other useful apps include AnkiApp, which uses a more traditional flash-based memorization technique, and Babbel, which focuses more on recognition and repetition.

## Learn a musical instrument

When it comes to learning a musical instrument, technique is everything. Yes, you might be able to pick up a guitar and learn how to play a few of your favorite songs without too much effort, but if you're learning bad habits, you're only doing yourself a disservice in the long run.

If you can afford it, get lessons from a real teacher, at least when you're just starting out. Many online lessons or apps can show you what to do, but if you're unsure about anything – your posture, how to hold your instrument, how to hold your hand, etc. – you might end up just reinforcing bad techniques that will be harder to unlearn in the future. An actual teacher will be able to assess your technique and correct you early on.

When it comes to practice, start by choosing a simple song, or even just a portion of that song; anything from a few notes to eight measures will do and practice meticulously with an emphasis on technique and accuracy. Every time you practice, use your smartphone to record yourself. By being able to hear what you play, you can easily assess where your strengths are, and where you need to improve. Maybe you're hitting the right notes, but you're playing too slow? Now you know you need to work on your speed.







**JUST FOCUS  
ON DOING ONE  
THING AT A  
TIME: SINGLE-  
TASK, DON'T  
MULTI-TASK.  
WHEN YOU'RE  
WALKING,  
JUST WALK.  
WHEN YOU'RE  
EATING, JUST  
EAT.**

## Expand your resume

If you don't think you're getting anywhere in your current job, maybe it's time to expand your resume. Add to your skill base by attending online classes at Coursera.com or Apple's iTunes U, both of which offer free interactive online classes by major universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Yale, and Princeton on topics from Accounting and Business Administration to Art History and Music Theory. The format varies based on the platform and class you choose, but the bottom line is almost always the same: spend some time watching video lectures, reading course materials, and engaging with other users in discussion. You won't always get a formal certification, but you will walk away with new skills and knowledge.

If you're interested specifically in picking up computer programming (one of the most in-demand skills today), we suggest Codecademy.com. Unlike Coursera and iTunes U, Codecademy is based more on practical application rather than theory. So instead of just explaining coding to you, the system will guide you through real coding exercises until you get the hang of it. For most people, it's an easier way to learn.

## Be more zen

"Zen is not some kind of excitement, but concentration on our usual everyday routine."

— Shunryu Suzuki

If you ever feel that your life is too stressful, too chaotic, and too disorganized, you could probably heed the advice of Soto Zen monk Shunryu Suzuki. One of the best ways you can unclutter your life is to just focus on doing one thing at a time: single-task, don't multi-task. When you're walking, just walk; when you're eating, just eat. Don't try to knock off a few tasks while doing other things. It may seem more efficient, but really, you're just getting into the habit of not devoting your attention entirely to one task. You don't give your all to that task, and the results are never as good as they could have been.

When it comes to each task in your day, put your mind completely on it. If possible, don't move on to the next task until you're finished. Try to schedule your day to give time between tasks so you're not always rushed for time. If you fill your entire day with tasks, you end up rushing from one thing to the next without stopping to think about what you're doing.

Create order out of chaos by scheduling certain activities for the same time every day. Zen monks designate certain times for prayer, eating, cleaning, and exercise, and you can do the same thing. Don't exercise whenever you can squeeze in the time, make it a daily (or weekly) ritual to maintain order.



# BECOME RICHER THIS COMING YEAR

Don't worry, this isn't a Ponzi scheme.

By Koh Wanzi

Health may be wealth, but an optimal blood pressure reading still can't be exchanged for cash to pay the bills (and gadgets). It's all nice and well to set out to live a fuller and more meaningful life, but let's be realists here: Part of that fullness comes from having a fuller wallet.

In the next two pages, I'm going to offer you some tips if your resolution this year is to be better off. I can't guarantee success, but don't forget me if you do become a millionaire.

## Keep track of your spending

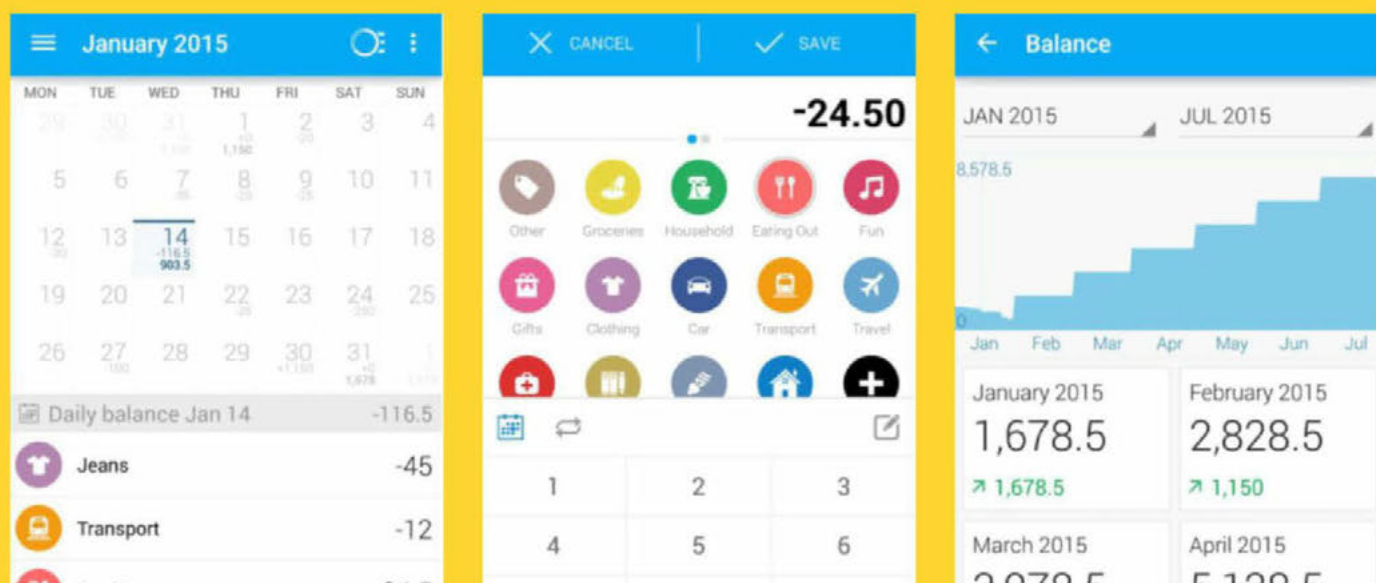
It's easy to lose track of your monthly expenditure. We've all been at the receiving end of a rude bill shock one time or another. Things are even worse if you're a techie, inundated as we are by an unceasing deluge of shiny gadgets that flash, pop, and sparkle.

We'd tell you to get some self-control, but we know from personal experience that some of us just aren't very good at being responsible adults. Still, you don't have to be a hapless victim to the sweet magnetic pull of consumerism.

One simple way would be to actually keep track of all your expenses so you know when you're spending too much. This will help make you more conscious of how many times you're swiping that card, and also allow you to plan ahead.

An app like Dollarbird can help you note everything down. It's essentially a personal finance tracker that uses a simple calendar-based interface to record your daily expenses.

Financial planning can definitely get confusing (what was this figure for again?), but the app will also allow you to enter recurring expenses and income like utility bills, rent, and your salary. With your monthly cash flows keyed in, Dollarbird can even give you a five-year financial projection.



## Educate yourself to make better financial decisions

You've probably had someone tell you that you have to find some way to make your money "grow." These tidbits usually drop from the mouths of your more affluent friends who constantly astound you with their savvy investments, derivatives, and all manner of financial instruments. You know, that one friend who bought a house with the profits he made off the stock market?

For the rest of us mere mortals who don't know our hedge funds from unit trusts, this might be the time to get educated. We all want to achieve some semblance of financial security, but a regular savings account is a slow way to do it.

The widespread availability of massive open online courses (MOOCs) from sites like Coursera, edX, and Udacity means that anyone with an Internet connection can take structured courses in their topic of interest. So, if you wanted to learn more about finance in order to make smarter decisions, you could look at a course on edX simply titled "Finance for Everyone: Smart Tools for Decision-Making" that equips you with the skills to evaluate the real-world impact of important choices, like whether to rent or buy a home or car.

A simple search on any of these MOOC websites will yield a number of courses for you to pick from. The best part is that some of these courses are self-paced, which means that you aren't bound by the onward march of the syllabus of a regular class and can fit your learning around your work schedule.

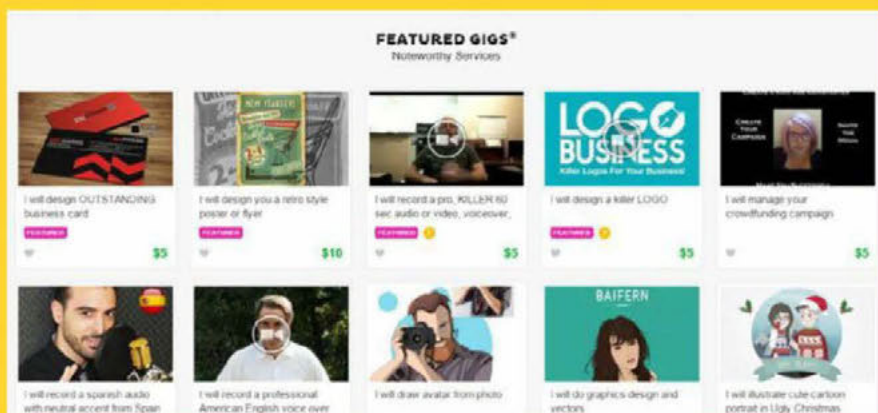


## Take on small jobs for extra income

The success of Uber has given rise to a lot of talk about a so-called gig economy, where multiple, small jobs supersede any one permanent position. Whether or not that is really the direction we're headed, these "gigs" could be a way for you to bolster your income. The voluntary, short-term nature of this work also means that you won't have to worry about it interfering with the schedule of your day job.

Websites like Fiverr allow anyone to register and offer their services for hire. It's essentially a services marketplace, with services starting at US\$ 5. You'll also have the option to offer additional services on top of your base service that customers can purchase. As a seller on Fiverr, you would receive a net revenue of US\$ 4 for every completed job and have the money credited to a linked PayPal account.

There are also alternatives like PeoplePerHour, which allows more flexibility in how you price your gigs. If none of that appeals to you, you can still apply to become a web tester at UserTesting, which will pay you US\$ 10 via PayPal for every 20-minute testing session.



## Set up an online store front

You know how the saying goes: Waste not, want not. The wise man who coined the phrase was probably thinking more along the lines of knitting your old sweater into a pair of mittens, but one good way to keep your finances healthy is to not let used items go to waste. No, we don't mean giving them away to the Salvation Army, although you should probably do that as well for your other resolution to be a better person. Fortunately, the popularity of mobile apps that help you recoup some dollars from used gadgets and goods means that there's no shortage of online spaces in which to hawk your stuff.

With apps like Trezo, Carousell, and Shopee, anyone can become their own online merchant. All of them work similarly; you just post a picture of whatever it is you're selling, fill in some details and a short description, and you're good to go. Potential buyers can contact you directly through the app to arrange a deal.

If you're the creative, hands-on sort, you can even start making your own merchandise and sell them on Etsy. And if that doesn't work out, there's always eBay.



## Save, save, save

This one is an obvious one, but one that really deserves a lot more of your attention. Of course, depending on your salary, this will be easier for some people and more difficult for others. But as Robert Kiyosaki said in his book *Rich Dad Poor Dad*, "an eighth-grade dropout who spends less than he earns is smarter than a college professor who can't make ends meet".

We mentioned earlier that a regular savings account isn't the savviest way to accrue enough funds for retirement, but savings still comprise the foundation of your wealth. After all, you do need to have sufficient funds before you can even think about investing.

It's a good idea to aim to save at least 20% of your monthly income. But if that's already a figure you're hitting, why not aim to push that up a little more?

In the meantime, how about this piggy bank in the form of Darth Vader's head to motivate you? Vader's helmet may not be able to contain your life savings, but it sure makes for a nice container for loose change, and a reminder that even the dark lord of the Sith is on board with your savings plan.



# HOW TO BE A BETTER LOVER, CHILD, SIBLING, AND FRIEND

Build relationships in the real world, not just on Facebook.

By *Kenny Yeo*

When was the last time you met up with your old school mates for meals? Who was the last friend you made who isn't a colleague? And do you remember what your Mum was saying yesterday over dinner?

No man is an island, and man is, by nature, a social being. Let 2016 be the year where you strengthen bonds with your family and loved ones, and build new ones with the people around you. And no, liking a comment on Facebook doesn't count.

## Focus on the people with you

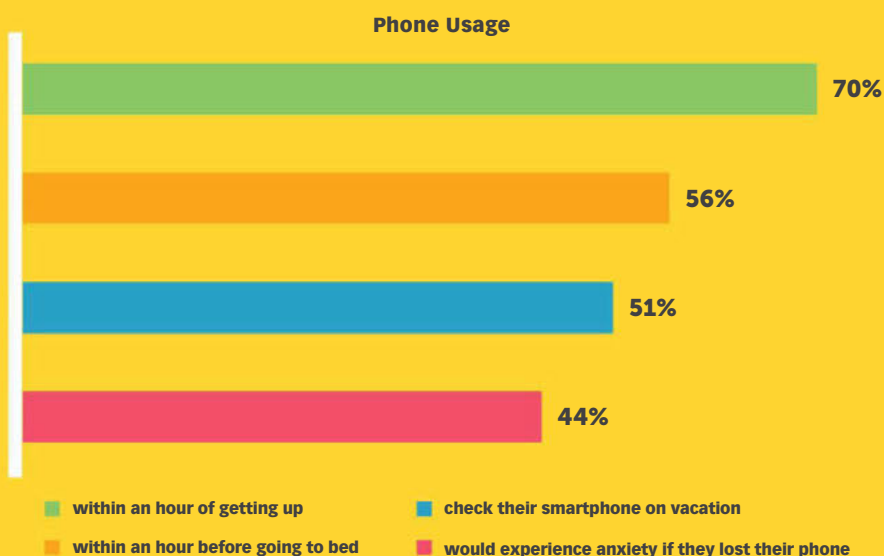
In Taiwan, there's a phrase that says "di tou zu," which literally translates to "a group of people with their heads bowed down." It was coined in reference to a social phenomenon where we spend a large amount of our time with our heads bowed down towards our mobile devices.

You don't have to travel far to get a taste of this. Take a ride on the train, enter a cafe or restaurant, or even just take a short walk near your home, and chances are you will see people with their heads bowed down, looking at their phones and completely oblivious to their surroundings, and perhaps, worse of all, their partners.

A recent survey showed that 70% of smartphone users check their devices within an hour of getting up, and 56% said they check their devices an hour before going to bed. More worryingly, 51% of users said they would check their smartphones continuously even while on vacation, and 44% also said that they would experience anxiety if they lost their phone and couldn't replace it for a week.

Isn't it ironic that in the presence of friends, we choose to keep to ourselves and instead venture onto social media platforms to seek interaction? Isn't it also ironic that instead of speaking to each other on dinner dates, we are obsessed with taking the best photos of our food so that we can share with others on Facebook or Instagram?

For 2016, let's begin by simply putting away our phones when we are together with friends or family. Stop worrying about catching up on Facebook updates; they will always be there for you. Stop taking pictures of food and start enjoying them. Stop tweeting and sharing about what cool stuff you are doing and with whom, and just soak in the moment. Forget about chasing Facebook likes, retweets, and new Instagram followers, and just focus on the people with you and live in the moment. Trust us, you'll be all the happier for it.

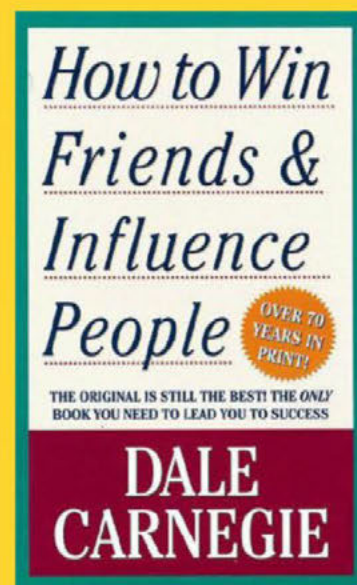


## Learn to make new friends

Meeting new people can be exciting. You get exposed to new perspectives and you may even learn something new. Plus, who knows where it could lead to? You may end up with a new friend or a business partner.

However, making new friends can be challenging, and even more so if you are shy. But here's a tip that has been endorsed by many relationship experts: When in a social setting like a company dinner and dance or an event, look for the person that looks even more uncomfortable than you and say hello to them. Thereafter, it's all about being yourself.

However, if you are truly clueless, a good book to read would be Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. Published in 1936, it has sold over 15 million copies worldwide and is almost the equivalent of the bible for those who wish to be more sociable. In it, you will find helpful and effective tips to help you make more friends and be more likable.







## Be a more attentive spouse

If you think infidelity is the number one reason behind divorces, you are in for a shock. According to studies on the reasons why marriages fail, a staggering 73% said that the lack of commitment was the main reason their marriage didn't work. Of these, 62% said that they wished their spouse had put in more effort, while a further 20% said they wished that they, themselves, had worked harder, too.

Staying committed isn't necessarily hard, either; sometimes, all it takes is something as simple as recalling important dates and anniversaries, planning for trips, and menial tasks like remembering to take the trash out.

Fortunately, technology can help with all of these. Having a shared Google or Apple calendar can help save a lot of headaches when it comes to remembering important dates and appointments. If any of you should have a new appointment, simply put it into the calendar, and your spouse will be automatically notified.

And with intelligent personal assistants like Google Now and Siri now being "always on," it has never been easier to create reminders. Whenever you want to put something off for later, like washing the dishes or ironing the clothes, for example, simply utter "Hey Siri" for iOS devices or "Ok Google" for Android devices to start recording your reminder.

Another useful tool is an app called Couple. As its name suggest, it's a social media platform for just you and your significant other. In Couple, couples can chat, post updates, share locations, share to-do lists, sketch, and send photos that will disappear after a fixed time and more. There's even a feature called ThumbKiss, where couples can press on their phone screens simultaneously to trigger a vibration, kind of like a virtual kiss. **HOW**

**STAYING COMMITTED ISN'T NECESSARILY HARD, EITHER; SOMETIMES, ALL IT TAKES IS SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS RECALLING IMPORTANT DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES.**









# MARSH- MALLOW MADNESS

■ Marshmallow is the latest Android operating system to roll out from Google, and boy is it yummy. It's also packed with hidden goodies. Here are five that you may not know about.

Text by *Koh Wanzl*

Art Direction by *Ian Chong*

# 5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANDROID 6.0 COULD DO

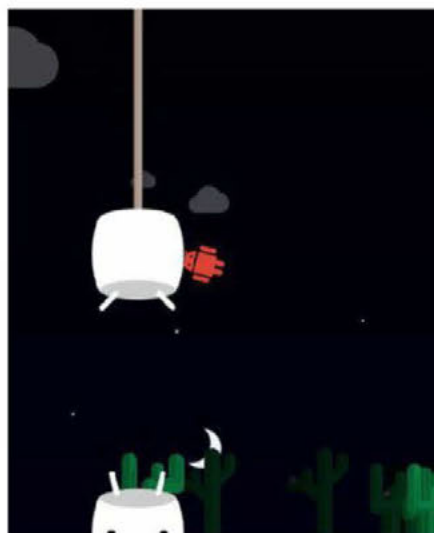
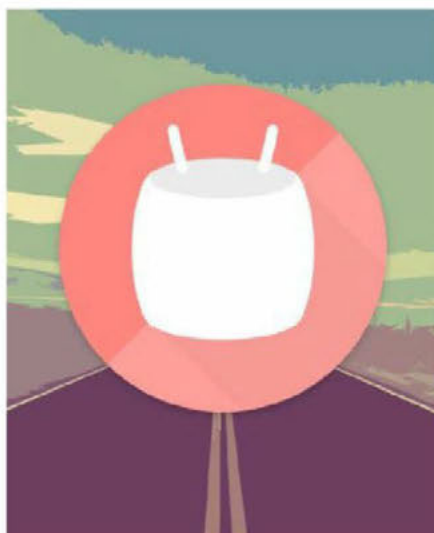
Unless you're the proud owner of the Huawei Nexus 6P, you probably haven't had the chance to experience the latest version of Android yet. Google's latest Nexus phone may have shipped with Marshmallow, the yummy moniker slapped onto the most polished version of Android so far, but it'll likely be a while before other manufacturers roll out their own updates.

While you're sticking your neck out trying to catch wind of roasting marshmallows, here are some of the nifty features (not all of them are equally useful) that you can look forward to. Granted, some of them are dependent on manufacturers themselves to implement, but it's nice to have the function there at the very least.

## PLAY FLAPPY DROID

As with Android Lollipop, Google has snuck in a hidden Easter Egg in Marshmallow that you have to sniff out for yourself. The surprise this time is also a Flappy Bird clone like on Lollipop, but with some tweaks to suit the latest version of Android. Instead of giant lollipops that threaten to crush your droid avatar, you have to guide the tiny red droid through an endless parade of skewered marshmallows.

To launch the game, navigate to the About Phone section in Settings and tap the Android version repeatedly until a large "M" icon appears. Tap the icon, and a marshmallow with a pair of Android antennae will appear. After that, tap and hold the icon briefly (you have to do this a few times) until the game launches. Now, just try not to get killed by giant marshmallows!

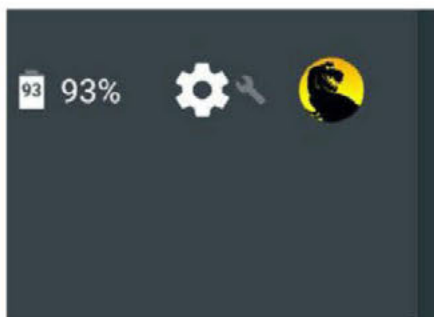


## CUSTOMIZE YOUR QUICK SETTING DRAWER AND STATUS BAR

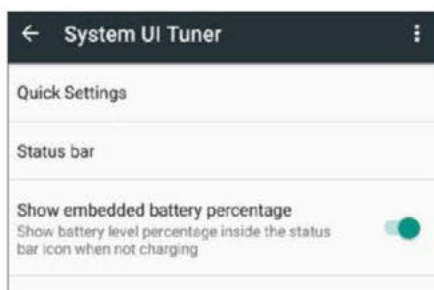
This feature is a little more useful than the first one. Marshmallow has a hidden System UI Tuner that you can call up by tapping and holding down on the gear icon. The gear icon will then spin to let you know that the activation was successful, and you'll also see a pop-up toast message to that effect.

The System UI Tuner sub-menu will then appear at the bottom of your Settings menu. There are fewer options than its name suggests, but there are some useful options like the ability to select which notification icons you want to see in your status bar. This essentially means that you can keep your status bar uncluttered even if you have a lot of things going on at once.

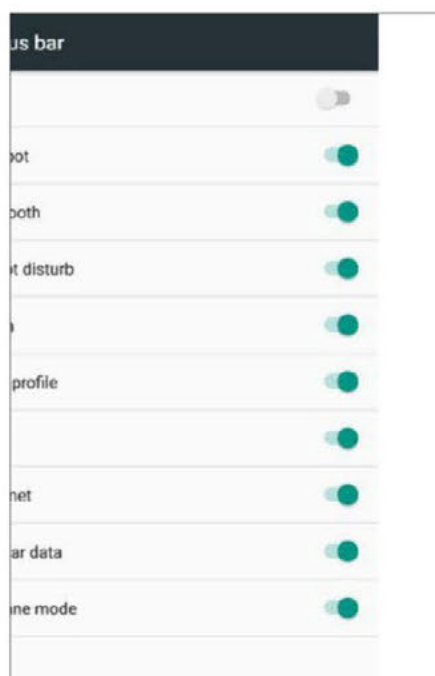
Android also doesn't show the battery percentage in the status bar by default, but now you can choose the option to show the battery percentage in the status bar when the phone isn't charging. On top of that, you can customize your Quick Settings panel by re-arranging the tiles or removing those that you don't need.



Holding down the wrench icon will activate the System UI Tuner.



You can choose to show the battery percentage in the status bar.



This menu lets you unclutter your status bar.

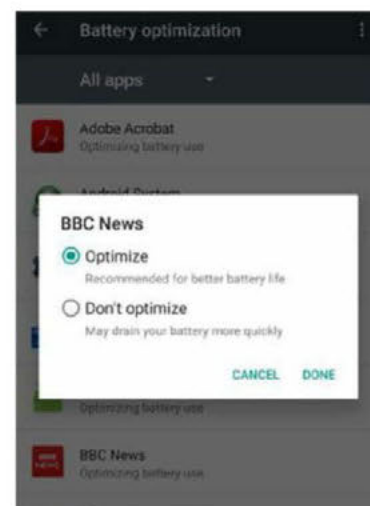
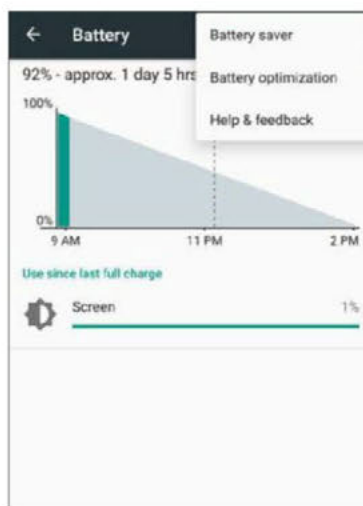


## MORE CONTROL OVER BATTERY SAVINGS

You might have read about a new battery-saving feature in Marshmallow called Doze. In a nutshell, what Doze does is detect when your device is not in use, such as when you go to bed or leave it unattended for long periods at work. It will then kick in to put your phone in hibernation.

However, Doze isn't an all-or-nothing feature, and you can choose which apps you want it to apply to. Doze essentially halts all notifications from apps that are dozing, but there will likely be apps that you want to always receive notifications from. In order to exclude these apps from going completely silent, go to your Battery settings and hit the three dot menu at the top right.

Select the option for Battery Optimization, tap Not Optimized, then hit All Apps to select the apps that you want to exclude from Doze. This way, you can ensure that you'll always receive Hangouts or WhatsApp messages the minute they come in.



## USE YOUR MARSHMALLOW PHONE TO CHARGE ANOTHER DEVICE

Thanks to Marshmallow's support for the USB Power Delivery specification, you can now use one USB Type-C device to charge another. One key feature of the Power Delivery specification is that power direction is no longer fixed; as long as the product has power (regardless of whether it is a host or peripheral), it can supply it to another device. USB Type-C cables also do away with the host-to-peripheral concept of older USB ports, which is why they can have the same connector at both ends.

Unfortunately, USB Type-C ports aren't all that common on phones yet, but as we move into 2016 and beyond, we'll hopefully see more phones that support the specification. So the next time you forget to bring your portable charger, you could just leech power from a friend's phone.

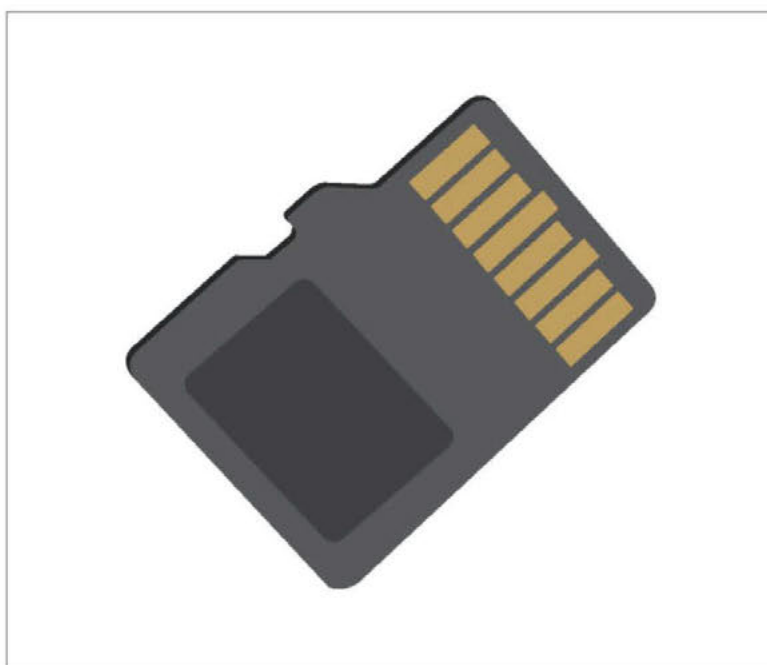


## USE MICROSD CARDS IN A SECURE FASHION

Support for microSD cards has virtually disappeared from flagship phones, but Marshmallow may just have paved the way for their return. A new feature called adoptable storage now puts external storage like microSD cards on the same level as internal storage. As the name suggests, the phone adopts the external storage and reformats it so that it is treated as if it were part of the internal storage. This is also more secure, as a reformatted card can no longer be used on another device and is encrypted with a static 128-bit AES key.

Adoptable storage lets you install apps and store private app data on the external card. In contrast, previous versions of Android only supported SD cards in a limited way and restricted users to storing things like photos. There were ways to circumvent that, but they were bothersome and perhaps caused more trouble than they were worth.

With adoptable storage, manufacturers may now have more incentive to bring back support for external storage. This is definitely good news for you, the consumer, as you could save money by buying a lower-capacity model and pairing it with an external card. Does this mark the return of 16GB phones?



# 7 THINGS TO DO WITH THE CANON EOS M10

by Alvin Soon



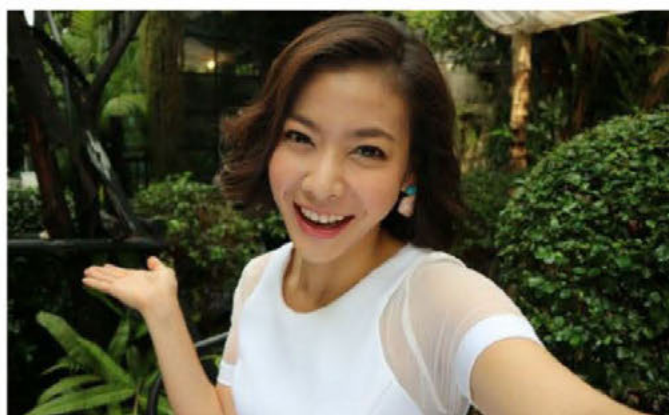
The EOS M10 is Canon's latest mirrorless interchangeable-lens camera, and it comes with a high-resolution 18MP APS-C CMOS sensor, as well as an advanced Hybrid CMOS II autofocus system. The EOS M10 is also easy to use, with a large 3-inch touchscreen that flips 180 degrees for the perfect selfie. It connects easily to smart devices, and lets you transfer photos quickly to share with family and friends.

## 1. LOVE SELFIES? LOVE THE EOS M10

If you love selfies, the EOS M10 is built for you. The large, 3-inch touchscreen flip monitor is built for taking the perfect selfie. Flip it around to face yourself, and the M10 automatically displays the Self Portrait mode shortcut icon.

Touch to enter Self Portrait mode, and adjust settings like the amount of background blur, photo brightness, and even the smoothness of your skin. When you're ready, activate the self-timer and a countdown timer appears, so you'll always be caught with the perfect pose.

The flip monitor isn't just good for you. The EOS M10 comes with the new 15-45mm f/3.5-6.3 IS STM kit lens, with a wider 24mm focal length (in 35mm equivalent), which means you can get more of everyone in a single group photograph.

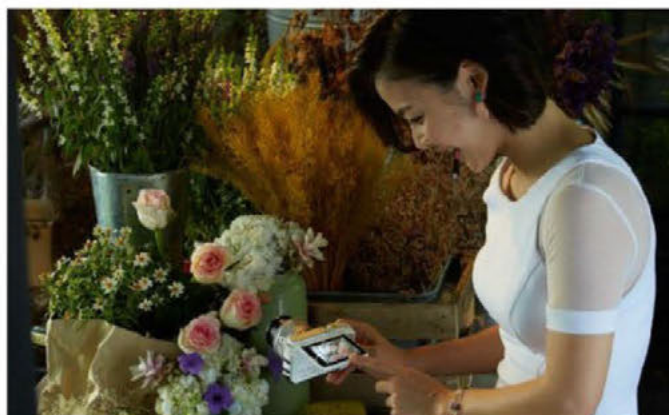


## 2. SHARE YOUR PICTURES RIGHT AWAY

The EOS M10 makes sharing photos with your smart mobile device as quick as pressing a button. Once you've connected to a smartphone using the dedicated pairing button on the M10's body and the steps that follow, you can simply press the button after that to connect the two devices again.

That's how easy it is to send photos over to your smartphone, so you can immediately share them with your friends and family. Besides sharing photos, you can also use Canon's Camera Connect app for Android and iOS to control the M10 remotely.

Plus, with NFC-enabled smartphones, you can tap the two devices together to start the pairing process, and you can also connect the two devices using Wi-Fi.



## 3. CAPTURE PERFECT PORTRAITS WITH THE PRECISION OF HYBRID AF

The perfect portrait needs perfect focus; the best moment goes to waste if the subject is out of focus and looks blurry. Portrait photographers know that the most important parts of the face to get in focus are the eyes, but it can be difficult to do if your autofocus (AF) system is slow.

The EOS M10 comes with an advanced Hybrid CMOS II AF system, which combines the best of both phase and contrast detection technology. What that means is that the M10 will make sure what needs to be in focus will stay in focus, helping you get the perfect shot without struggling with slow AF.



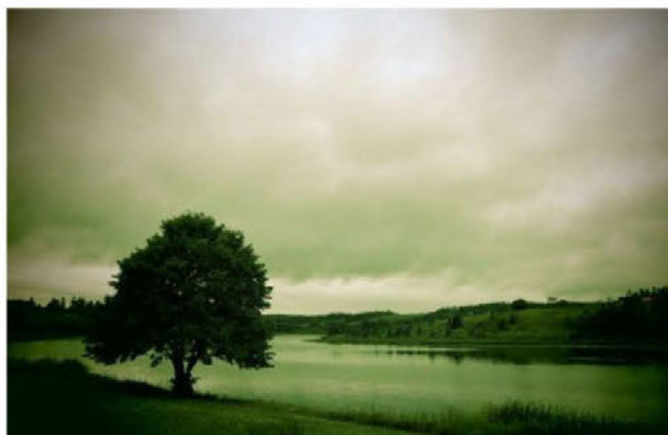
PICTURES CANON



#### 4. HAVE FUN WITH THE CREATIVE FILTERS

Ever wanted to add some extra finesse to your images, but didn't know how? The EOS M10 lets you express your inner artist without having to learn complicated software.

It comes with seven Creative Filters: "Grainy black and white," "Art bold," "Water painting," "Fish-eye," "Toy camera," and "Soft focus," which let you change the mood and look of a photo to show how it felt, and not just how it looked.



#### 5. CAPTURE EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES USING THE WIDER LENS

The EOS M10 comes with the new 15-45mm f/3.5-6.3 IS STM kit lens, which has a wider focal length than most kit lenses at 24mm (in 35mm equivalent). The wider focal length lets you get more subjects in a single frame, and is also perfect for capturing more in a landscape.

The lens' built-in image stabilization ensures that your images remain steady and sharp, while the STM (short for "stepping motor") autofocuses quickly and silently, perfect for recording great audio when shooting video.



#### 6. MAKE THE EOS M10 YOUR VERY OWN

Everyone's camera usually looks like everyone else's, but you can make the EOS M10 your own using Canon's face jackets (sold separately). Choose from bright, single colors to match your moods, or select unique patterns to express your personality.



#### 7. GET MULTIPLE EFFECTS WITH DIFFERENT LENSES

One of the best things about getting an interchangeable-lens camera is the ability to switch lenses, giving you more flexibility and a wider range.

Use the 11-22mm lens to get even more in the frame, useful for both tight rooms and big landscapes. Or try the 55-200mm lens, which lets you zoom in and get closer with subjects that are far away.

The 22mm lens gives you more background blur with an f/2 aperture, for beautiful separation between subject and background. And with a Canon EF-EOS M mount adapter, you can have access to Canon's wide library of DSLR lenses for use on your EOS M10.



# MASTERING MIUI 7

by Liu Hongzuo

When Xiaomi first launched their phones, they had the masses in a titter because of the interface; it had flagship quality despite it coming from a low-cost brand. To some, it was seen as the most complete use of Android OS, with sensible functions, a decent design, and deep customization. MIUI is also unofficially available for non-Xiaomi users willing to experiment. Here's a look at some features of its latest incarnation.



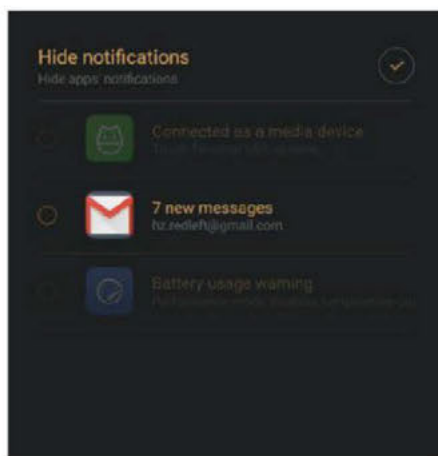
PICTURES: XIAOMI



## DISABLE NOTIFICATIONS FROM NOTIFICATION BAR

Most smartphone users know how to disable notifications from the phone's settings menu. MIUI 7 has the ability to disable an app's notification from the Notification Bar itself. This is handy if you recently acquired a new app that's good, but spammy.

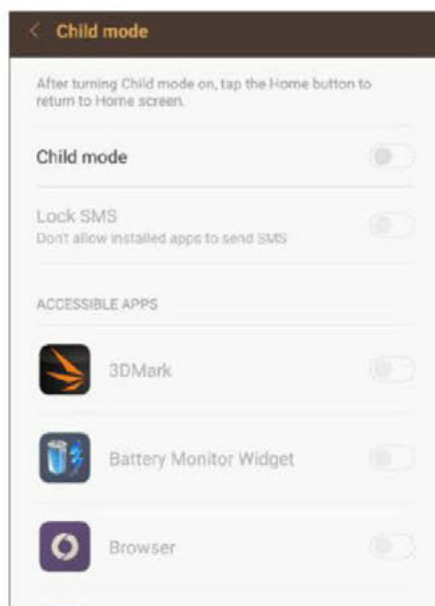
To disable an app's notification, swipe down when in the unlocked home screen. Near the top right is a Disable sign. Press it, and a list of circular checkboxes will appear on the left. You are now in the Hide Notifications menu. Check the boxes next to the offending app, and confirm your choices by pressing the Tick sign (located where the Disable sign was). You're done, and there's no need to enter your Settings menu to do any of this.



## CHILD MODE

You can set an alternate mode for the phone, limiting its accessibility to emails and contact lists while keeping selected apps available to use. Besides children, we think that this doubles as extra security, especially if you have sensitive information on your phone and you're lending it to someone else for an afternoon.

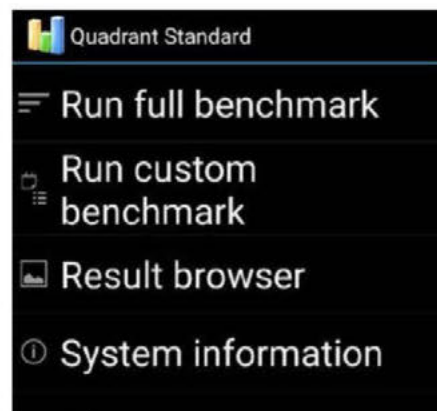
Find this feature at Settings > Child Mode. You will need to set a password for entering and exiting this mode. Select the list of allowed apps from below. There's also the option to prevent allowed apps from sending out SMS messages.



## XXL TEXT

You can choose to have a bigger system font. This can be handy in two ways: easier reading, and more importantly, an easier time placing the text cursor in between words because of the size. It works partially for both system and third-party apps; for example, you get the XXL Text feature on the URL bar for Chrome browser, but the text on the sites you visit is still subjected to Chrome's setting. Our benchmarking apps enjoyed the XXL Text font, yet the phone's proprietary Calendar app doesn't use the XXL setting until you decide to input a new calendar event.

To get XXL Text, go to Settings > Text Size. The feature comes with a slider from S to XXL for users to pick the best size that suits their needs. Press OK to apply the change. For reference, S is the default font size.



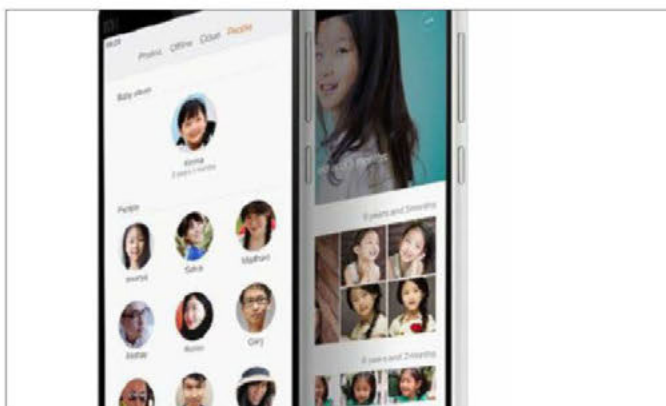
## PERFORMANCE UPGRADES

It isn't just about gimmicks or looks. If you are more of a power user, you will still want MIUI 7, especially if you're upgrading from previous MI interfaces. This is because of MIUI 7's new app-launching optimizations. Loading and animation are now both done simultaneously, resulting in a 30% faster system response for app startup time. MIUI 7 also makes the most out of the phone's battery by synchronizing the inevitable CPU wake-up forced by apps keeping themselves up to date, extending battery life by another 10%.



## UPDATES FOR NEW FEATURES

Most proprietary OSes have a fixed set of features once it's ported to the phone, and updates are mostly for stability and optimization. MIUI 7 is different, whereby future updates also come with more features that were announced but not released. Baby Album is one such example; it's not ready yet, but when it is, your phone can use in-built facial recognition to detect baby photos and group them in a separate album. The grouping still applies when the child continues to grow, giving the album a chronological track of the child's progress. Other updates that have not yet come to MIUI 7's global version is Auto DND (where you can schedule Do Not Disturb periods) and Double Tap to Wake, a feature commonly found on newer LG smartphones.



# ALL ABOUT TETHERED AND REMOTE CAPTURE

Exploring other methods of triggering the camera.

by Marcus Wong

Yes, there are other options that will allow you to take photographs without even being at the camera, and on top of that, better ways to review your images while you're taking them.

## TETHERED OR REMOTE?

Despite the fact that both techniques allow you to send images from your camera to a computer or smart device, there are some fundamental differences between the two.

Remote capture generally involves the use of a mobile app, and the images are sent over via a Wi-Fi connection. Because the images are sent over via Wi-Fi, they generally are in the smaller JPEG format. You can set the camera to send a smaller copy over to your smart device (or computer) for preview purposes, while the full-resolution image is saved on the memory card in the camera, or just stick to the smaller sizes if they will suit your needs.

For tethered capture, you connect a cable from your camera to your computer and send the full-resolution images over to software like Adobe Lightroom and Capture One Pro that handle the tethering process. Because you'll be sending larger files, transfer by cable is preferred, as it's faster and more reliable. You will also be able to change camera settings and trigger the camera from within the software (with a Live View window).

## WHEN FLEXIBILITY IS KEY

On the flipside, remote capture via app is almost 100% about the flexibility of placing your camera in locations that you wouldn't physically be able to reach while still remaining in control. For example, when we tested the weather-proofing of the Fujifilm X-T1, we placed the camera in the freezer and were still able to take stills and video to prove that the camera was still working by using Fujifilm's Cam Remote app.

Because you're transmitting the file wirelessly to the camera, it is best used when JPEG capture is sufficient, though you can still save a copy in RAW on your camera's memory card. The other advantage to using remote capture via app on your smart device is that the entire display of your smart device becomes the equivalent of your camera's rear LCD – with touch – so you can now have much more accuracy in choosing AF points via touch.

## THE PROCESS OF GOING REMOTE

For remote shooting, you really just need to have the appropriate camera app installed on your smart device. This will vary from brand to brand and sometimes model to model. The general procedure is to start the wireless function on your camera, then run the app on your smart device. You'll be prompted to join the wireless network created by your camera, after which you should get a live view image of what the camera is seeing, as well as options to adjust the various settings.

The main thing to note here is that you'll want to be in an area without too many wireless networks, as that can interfere with the connection to your camera.





## FOR ABSOLUTE ACCURACY

Obviously, the first consideration is the final output file. If color and focus accuracy is a must, then tethered capture is the best way to go. The difference between being able to look at an image at 100% resolution on a laptop (or dedicated monitor) and trying to zoom in to view the image on the rear screen of any camera is huge. Monitors can also be calibrated for your environment to ensure color accuracy, which is something you can't quite do on your camera, so that's definitely the way to go if you absolutely need precision.

The other time when tethered capture is a better option is when you're working with a team, and more than one person needs to look at the image at the same time. Obviously, having more than two people peering at the back of a camera is not ideal, so with a tethered workflow, everyone can see what's going on at the same time.



A laptop screen is much better than the rear LCD when checking for details.

## GETTING STARTED WITH TETHERED CAPTURE

There isn't much to do to get started in terms of tethered capture. You just need the software that supports your camera, and the appropriate cable for your camera. This simply has to be long enough to allow you range of movement while shooting, so we'd look at something around 1.5m to 2m in length.

On the software front, we'd recommend Adobe Lightroom or Capture One Pro, as both are industry-standard programs both in terms of tethered capture, and more importantly, RAW file processing, so you'll get great support in both avenues. Both also support the largest number of camera models overall, so compatibility is likely to be less of an issue. In terms of setting up, in both cases, you connect the camera to your computer, fire up the software, and then select to connect the camera. You'll then need to select a Capture folder as well as a Process folder. (The Capture folder is where your RAW files will be stored to, while the Process/Export folder is where your images will go after you develop the RAW files.)

We recommend you take extra care in terms of securing the cable to your camera, though, since it's not uncommon to find people tripping over cables during such sessions. Gaffer tape is your friend here!



# WAVE 89.1

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One of the more daunting tasks when working out is keeping your sounds secured to your ears while on the move. The **BlueAnt Pump Mini** eases the hassle with a rock-solid fit that delivers all-day comfort and booming bass in a wireless package. The in-ear headphones last up to six hours of continuous usage on a single charge, so you don't have to worry about running out of music during your workout. It has all-around audio quality from the low to high frequencies, and is capable of connecting to your smartwatch, as well.

Craving for such features? You're in luck, as we're giving away two pairs of BlueAnt Pump Mini earphones this month – perfect for you and your workout buddy! All you have to do is tell us where you and your partner plan to use these earphones for a chance to win. Make your answer extra creative, and we'll throw in a **Bluelounge Kosta** charging coaster (for Apple Watches) in the package!

Send in your entry via email to [editor.ph@hwzcorp.com](mailto:editor.ph@hwzcorp.com) together with your name, address, and telephone number. For more information about the product, visit [www.myblueant.com](http://www.myblueant.com).

BlueAnt

The HWM Team congratulates Patrick Martinez, the winner of the Leef iBridge Mobile Memory from our January issue contest.



**Terms and Conditions** • This contest is open to all HWM readers except staff of Hardware Zone Phils. Corp. • The qualifying period for this contest is until 29 February 2016. • Only the winner(s) of the contest will be notified via email. • Winners are given 15 days to respond to the notification email and another 15 days since replying to claim their respective prizes. Prizes not claimed within this period will be forfeited. • Selection panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entertained. • Only one (1) entry per reader in a particular contest. • Should the specified prize be no longer available (e.g., phased out), the contest sponsor may change the prize to another product of similar or equal value. • By sending in your entries, you are agreeing to the above-mentioned terms and conditions.



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